1/12/40 to 31/12/40 exit from K-10-A

British Air Activity. Contd.

Hatston. arrival at Hatston on 15/41. Reference my predecessors 0942/1. I am equally concerned over the lack of an effective striking force in this area. Has the possibility of reinforcing 42 Squadron with a detachment from 22 Squadron been considered. (C.in C. H.F. 1921/14 to Adty.

Enemy Air Activity.

Scapa. One A/C passed over Flow from S.E. to N.W. at 0958. (A.C.O.S. 1055/14.)

SCANIA. (Swedish 1980 Tons.) Attacked by aircraft at 1100/11 in 55° 30' N. 7° 00' W. Three bombs fell close to vessel but no damage or casualties. Vessel returned to Belfast on account of bad weather and inability to keep in touch with convoy O.G.47.(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1100/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

Humber. Mining. 1.

Closed (F.O. Number 0317/14.) Open. (F.O. Number 1040/14.)

Great Yarmouth. Closed. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0831/14.)

B.S.47. Postponed on account of weather (SO. M/L. Ironingham 1029/14.)My 1008/13. Request 24 hours be added to all times (C. in C. Rosyth 1346/14 to K.Q.F.C.)

Operation. L.M.E.2. Intend leave Milford Haven 1800/14, lay at 2030, and return on completion about 2230 (ADVENTURE 1149/14.) Completed. (ADVENTURE 2110/14.)

Falmouth Area. Mines have been exploded by weather between 2300/13 and 1400/14 as follows: Falmouth Bay 10, Penzance Bay 5, off Fowey 2. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1430/14.)

Dover. Area. Routine sweeps to 0800/14, QZS 190 Dumpto to Sandhead Buoys by single and double 'L' Trawlers 35 to 50 per cent nothing found. Clearance sweep Sandhead to 'A' Buoy by 5 Oropesa Trawlers found six mine and 8 explosive cutters.(V.A.Dover 1505/1

Mining 2.

Thames to Medway. Vessels proceeding from Thames to Medway or vice versa are to be routed by the Searched Channels. Cdre, Sheerness is requested to sweep as soon as practicabl A Channel 3 cables wide to the Eastward A line joining No. 3 Medway Bar Channel

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Thames to Medway. Vessels proceeding from Thames to Medway or vice versa are to be routed by the Searched Channels. Cdre. Sheerness is requested to sweep as soon as practicable A Channel 3 cables wide to the Eastward of A line joining No.3 Medway Bar Channel buoy and No.1 Yantlet buoy.
(C.in C. Nore 1755/14 to N.C.S.O. Thames).

This will be done A.M. tomorrow in conjunction with sweep of Medway Approach Channel. (Comdre. Sheerness 1911/14).

Foulness Sands. ALOHA reports a Mine about 8 feet long and 3 feet diameter on Foulness Sands one mile S.E. magnetic from West Buxey Buoy.
(C.in C. Nore 2221/13 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Dutch Coast. Following received from Bomber Command at 2350/13 begins.
Two ships believed to be Cruisers or destroyers in position 52° 30'N. 04°E. Course N.W. with wake ¾ mile long, also three ships believed to be M.V's 8000 to 9000 tons, course North, wake same length ships, with 2 aircraft circling above and ahead, both at 1807/13. Two large ships about 5000 tons, stationary, in 53° 02'N. 05° 12'E. at 1815/13. Ends.
(D.C. 0019/14 to C.in C. Nore).

My 0019/14. Hudson A/C on R/C in this area between 0305 and 0605/14 reports nothing sighted. (D.C. 0940/14 to C.in C. Nore).

Norwegian Coast. The following reports have been received.
1. (a) All lights in the fairway on the coast between Trondheim and Kristiansund North are now extinguished. Previously it was reported that all lights in the inner leads were normal except for sectors showing to seaward being obscured. Grade C 2. No reason for the change can be given at present.
1.(b) Recent orders issued to pilots instruct them to proceed on the inside of the minefield at Stadlandet. Grade C.2.
2. A German crew has arrived at Tonsberg 59 degs. 18'N. 10 degs 24' E. to take the Norwegian C.D. ship TORDENSKJOLD (C.B.1815 page 217) to Germany to have new guns mounted. She is expected to leave before Christmas. Grade B 2.
3. Germans are urging Finnish ship owners to arrange shipment of valuable cargo of 2000 tons of Titanium ore from Jossingfjord 58 degs 18' N. 06 degs 20' E. to a German Baltic or North Sea port. Grade A 1. No date mentioned but it is presumed cargo is ready to load. (D.N.I.2249/14 to C.in C. H.F.).

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

IMPERIAL VALLEY. (British, 4573 tons) Ashore at 0738/14 half a mile N.E. of Roore Ness, 1 mile N.E. of Crail Harbour. Crew of 45 landed. No casualties. Ship holed and pounding on rocks. (C.in C. Rosyth 1845/14 to Adty.)

SALADIN. Requires new oscillator. (SALADIN 0831/14 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

EMPIRE ELK. In tow in 56° 40'N. 8°W. Intend running for Tobermory if weather gets worse. Tug SUPERMAN expected. (LA MALOUINE 2259/14 to C.in C. W.A.)

CAIRO. Following damage sustained during gale of Night 10/11. (CAIRO 1113/14 and 117/14) Requires docking. Above water defects will require about 10 days. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2336/14 to Adty.)

I.N. VIASSOPOL. Ashore West of B.4. Buoy. Tug SUN trying to tow her off. (VORTIGERN 1239/14 to C.in C. Nore).

MONA'S ISLE. (A/A Guardship) Your 1443/10. Damage is extensive. Requires docking for at least 14 days. (A.S. Rosyth 1327/14 to N.O.I.C. Methil).

CORUNDUM. (British, 929 tons) Has returned to Clyde with engine defects. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1811/14).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.
F.N. 58. Arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0942/14).

S.L. 58. My 1810/12. Amend speeds to 8 and 7 knots respectively (F.O.C.N.P. 1110/14)

F.S. 60. Ships (list put into Tyne owing weather (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1501/14).

O.G. 47. Sailing telegram (C. in C. W.A. 1730/14).

O.B.C. 259. Sailed 2200/14. List (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2222/14).

W.N. 55. Code "Rusty" escorts unappointed, 12 ships (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1156/14).

S.C. 14. Since 2200/12 have swept westward along route of S.C. 14 i.e. 055° 20'N 014° 30'W thence north for 25 miles and eastwards to 055°40'N 008° 50'W. From latter position at 0415/14 am steering mean course 302° 15 knots until 0800 then (? 157°160°263° or 270°) to continue search.
(VENOMOUS 0445/14 to C. in C. W.A.).

H.X. 93. Ocean Escort informs me that H.X. 93 was in position 6030 N 18.00 W. at 0900 and would be 8 hours late. (ACHATES 1035/14 to ACTIVE, ANTELOPE).

S.L. 57. Meet S.L. 57, 21 ships unescorted 1000/16 55° 07'N 016° 50'W 060° 8½ knots (route). (C. in C. W.A. 1054/14 to WHITEHALL, WINCHELSEA, VISCOUNT, VANQUISHER, HIBISCUS, GENTIAL) (List of ships C. in C. W.A. 1746/14).

C. in C. S.A. 1637/12. Leave S.L. 57 24 hours before arrival rendezvous, return to Freetown (route).
When well clear of convoy report convoy's estimated p.c.s. (C. in C. W.A. 1154/14 to CANTON).

S.L. 59. CATHAY is to act as ocean escort to convoy S.L. 59, routed in accordance with Admiralty 1416/7. and N.C.S.O. memorandum O.S.L. (I) 14/12. (1231N/14)

H.X. 97. WORCESTERSHIRE leaves Clyde escorted at 2200/15 to meet Convoy H.X. 97 and act as ocean escort as far as 23° West. (F.O.C.N.P. 1250/14).

/M.M.40.....

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Convoys (contd).
E.N. 40.

HOME COMMANDS.
Shipping.
E.N. 40. scattered. Request in anticipation of approval they use Pentland Firth. 5 ships with me. (KINGSOL 1115/14 to A.C.O.S.).

5 ships and KING SOL 000° Dunnett Head at 1315, remainder scattered. (A.C.O.S. 1341/14 to Admty etc).

E.N. 38.

E.N. 38 not arrived. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1216/14 to N.C.S.O. Methil).

Only ship CAMEO arrived 13/12/40 (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1348/14 to Admty and N.C. S.O. Methil).

E.N. 41.
W.N. 54.

My 1302/13 Act as additional escort to E.N. 41 sailing from Methil 1830/15. On meeting transfer to W.N. 54 due Duncansby 1400/17. Code word for E.N. 41, MIGHT and for W.N. 54, CHITTY. (C. in C. Rosyth 1315/14 to FOWEY).

On completion of present escort duty proceed as necessary to cover E.N. 41 leaving Methil at 1830/15 and due Buchanness at 1200/16. (F.O. (D). H.F. 1525/14 to CURACOA).

F.S. 60.

Position 054° 59'N 001° 11'W making good less than 3 knots. Convoy taking shelter in Tyne. (LOWESTOFT 1246/14 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

LOWESTOFT, WOOLSTON and 3 ships of F.S. 60 entered Tyne. D.O. Whitby reports 7 ships proceeding south unescorted. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1447/14 to C. in C. Rosyth)

Seven ships of F.S. 60 are reported proceeding South unescorted. LOWESTOFT and WOOLSTON should proceed at such a speed as to avoid damage to overtake and protect them QUORN has been ordered North to assist and should be off 62 D. Buoy at 2215. Ships in Tyne should wait for F.S. 61. (C. in C. Rosyth 1531/14 to N.O.I.C. Tyne)

F.S. 61.

Left with VANITY and WESTMINSTER (C. in C. Rosyth 2351/14).

/H.X. 96.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).
H.X. 96.

Departure 14/12 RANPURA, Ocean escort H.X. 96. (S.O. (I) Halifax, 1820/14 to Admty etc).

F.N. 58.

Arrivals. LONDONDERRY VIVIEN with F.N. 58, includes Tanker BRITISH LADY from Sheerness, Trawler TERJE V (at Granton) on passage Aberdeen-Blyth KEPPEL from Scapa. (C. In C. Rosyth 2351/14).

F.N. 59.

Southend 14/12 departure for Methil for Tobermory with convoy F.N. 59 H.M.S. TIERCEL (N.C.S.O. THAMES 0820/14)

For F.N. Convoy 59, 7 ships and 13 Trawlers join at 62 D. buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 2329/14 to WOLSEY, VERDUN).

SHARAAS.

Departure 14/12 for Clyde, Norwegian tanker SHARAAS escorted by RUMBA. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1009/14).

Troop Convoys.
W.S. 5A.

Your 1711/13. Slow group should sail as arranged at 1600/18 and fast group at 1700/19. Route as in my 1709/12, (additions). (D.T.D. 1823/14 to N.C.S.O. Liverpool).

My 2204/12 Cancel paras. 3. and 4. Times of sailing from Liverpool of slow and fast groups as in (1823/14) Route. Destroyers should be detached to meet inward bound convoys as arranged by C. in C. W.A. Programme has been calculated on the basis of speed of advance of 10½ knots for the slow and fast portions respectively so as to allow of continuous zig-zag from position (a) in my 1709/12. (D.O.D. (H) 2150/14 to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F. F.O. Force K.).

Mine Warning.

Attention called to Defence of Shipping Part 1, Article 222, and that mines may be encountered in any part of the world, (D.T.D. 1719/14 "A" Message).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Operation "Ration".

Certain considerations (F.O.C.N.A. 0110/14 amended 0950/14) See operations Volume.

My 1244/13 FORRESTER with French M/V AVANT-GARDE) Vessels arrived. (F.O.C.N.A. 0202/14 to Admty).

Operation "Ration" is not to be carried out until further orders (A.C.N.S. (F) to F.O.C.N.A, to Force H. 0156/14).

Intelligence. Dakar.

Have received following Ambassador Falkland Islands regarding situation at Dakar.

One battalion Senegalese rifles from French Morocco has recently been embarked at Casablanca for Dakar. Other battalions will follow. Confirmed from excellent source that a large depot of gold belonging to Bank of France is buried in outskirts Dakar. French tanker and cargo steamers which passed through Straits of Gibraltar on 10/12 bound for Casablanca are on point of leaving for Dakar. Both loaded with Munitions of War. Aviation petrol coming direct from U.S.A. has recently been disembarked at Dakar. (Consul-General Tangier 1300/14 to F.O.).

French Submarines.

My 1815/10. (Submarine reliefs in Atlantic) French Admiralty state movement postponed 24 hours. (N.A. Madrid 1220/14, to Admty) (F.O.C.N.A. to N.A. Stn. 2131/14).

OREGON.

Your 1225/11. (re OREGON calling at Gibraltar to repatriate French merchant seamen & officers). French Admiralty approves OREGON calling Gibraltar for this purpose on condition she transports no merchandise.

Beirut.

My 1745/9 (all French warships left. One Submarine returned late). Remaining Warships returned 12/12. They had manoeuvres off Tripoli. (Consul Gen., Beirut 1307/13 to Admty).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Azors.

Force H. to proceed to sea as early as convenient today and proceed towards Azors at 17 knots. Operation "Ration" is not to be carried out until further orders. (A.C.N.S. (F) to F.O.C.N.A. S.O. Force H. 0156/14).

My 0304/14. Petrol to north westward of Ile de Yeu in case expedition leaves St. Nazaire. (V.A.S. 0306/14 to TRIBUNE).

Force H.
(for Azores).

Your 0156/14. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and 6 destroyers will sail 0930. (S.O. Force H. to Admty, 0332/14).

My 0332/14. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and available destroyers 6 in number proceeding 1030, departure having been postponed to enable all destroyers to complete with fuel. Request object of operation may be communicated. (S.O. Force H. 1025/14 to Admty).

Gibraltar departure 1030/14. S.O. Force H. in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, FAULKNOR, FURY, FORESTER, ISIS, ENCOUNTER, DUNCAN (S.O.I. Gib. 1132/14).

Submarine.
Patrol.

Suggest for consideration that U class S/m's carry out patrol on way to Gibraltar. Object to endeavour to intercept 2 Italian U boats ex-Tangier in case they are proceeding to Bordeaux. (F.O.C.N.A. 1032/14 to Admty). UPHOLDER, USK and UNIQUE divested to patrol in Bay of Biscay. Further signal will be made when they continue passage to Gibraltar. (U.A.S. 1026/14 to C. in C. Med F.O.C.N.A. Capt. S.I.).

Trawler.
Patrol.

KINGSTON JACINTH patrolling between "I" Channel and Cadiz KINGSTON TOPAZ leaves patrol off Lisbon 15/12 for Gibraltar. KINGSTON TURQUOISE leaves Gibraltar 16/12 to patrol in the area bounded by 295° Cape Roca 15 miles and 40 miles 235° Cape Rozo 15 miles and 40 miles? 337° Cape Espichel 15 miles and 40 miles. (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/14 to UPHOLDER, USK, UTMOST).

/TRIUMPH.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (continued).

TRIUMPH. Gibraltar departure 1815/14 TRIUMPH to patrol south of Alboran Islands (S.O.I. Gib., 1816/14).

Hostile Aircraft. Situation report. At 1135/12, Heinkel 111 over Rock, reported to have Spanish markings. Possibly Savoia with Spanish markings reported over Rock at 1415/13. Fire not opened. Unconfirmed report of tanks area San Roque (Governor Gib. to W.O. 2145/13 recd. from W.O. 1512/14).

MARIA JOANA MAR AZUL. Seizure of MARIA JOANA has had most beneficial effect. MAR AZUL which was sailing with contraband has cancelled her voyage and will unload her present cargo. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1706/14 to F.O.C.N.A.).

South Atlantic.

DELHI. To return Lagos and embark ammunition from KUMASIAN (F.O.I.C.S. to DELHI, 1049/14).

ARAWA. Is required Freetown (date) for escort duty. Request you sail her accordingly. (C. in C. S.A. 1259N/14 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).

Dispositions. South Atlantic dispositions 1200/14 (C. in C. S.A. 1717N/14).

BULOLO. Leaves Clyde escorted at 2200/15 for Freetown. Route (F.O.C.N.P. 1302/14 1304/14).

CATHAY. To escort S.L. 59 (see Shipping) Further orders re arrival Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1231N/14).

Foreign Legion Movement. C. in C. S.A. 1951/12 and proposal send Legion Middle East via Freetown. General de Larminat points out very desireble when ships arrive Duala to embark Legion they should then sail direct South to Sudan. Bad effect on morale of troops if they were to go to Freetown again and perhaps stay there some time. He attaches great importance to this being avoided if possible. (20. M.M. Brazzaville 0715/14 to W.O.).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Foreign Legion Movement. (contd).

My 1951/12 your 1655/12 para. 1 and your 2102/11 para 4 and Admiralty's 2334/13 para 2 am arranging for TOUAREG and CAPE OLIVE shall bring Legion to Freetown and it will not therefore be possible for French Brigade to join convoy W.S. 5A. (C. in C. S.A. 1943/14 to D. of S.T).

KOSMOS.

Your 1128/13 Recent arrival from Dakar confirms names of nine Norwegian Ships there as stated in S. in C. S.A's 1203/19 and has no knowledge of KOSMOS. Only information here referring to KOSMOS passed in my 1214/27/11 is still unexplained (S.O.I. Freetown to Admty).

Suspicious Ship.

F.O.C. N.A. 1251/14/11 SUTLEJ reports as follows 1015 G.M.T. 5/12 in 031° 06'N 021° 38'W sighted fully loaded tanker with Spanish colours painted on bows and quarters and word Espana on bridge structure and on board abaft funnel. Hull black, superstructure white, resembling CAMPOAMOR in Talbot Booth except had cruiser stern. Black funnel white band and device. Sighted 6 miles on port bow steering S. same course as SUTLEJ. Tanker altered W. closing within a mile, SUTLEJ then took avoiding action. Can you identify. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1434/14 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

PRETORIA CASTLE.

Simonstown departure 1540/14 PRETORIA CASTLE for patrol and Freetown in accordance with your 1953/12. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1543Z/14 to C in C. S.A.).

ENTERPRISE.

ENTERPRISE. arrived Montevideo 1415/13 leaves 1415/15 15/12 after making good defts. (R.A.S.A.D. 1615Z/14 to Admty).

"Shrapnel" Force.

Commander 102 R.M. Brigade requests latest information from Cumberlege may be communicated before any move of "SHRAPNEL" takes place. Commander is assuming his orders are as when he left England namely that if there is any opposition the operation is to be carried out as a war operation and by force. (C. in C. S.A. 1759/14 to Admty

/Dispositions.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued).

Dispositions
NEPTUNE
DELHI
MILFORD
DRAGON
FURIOUS
BRIDGEWATER.

To make situation clear as to commitments in Freetown and West African area and Forces available, following is summary of position.

(a) Patrol in Libreville are. NEPTUNE left for Freetown DELHI and MILFORD remain. (b) Force L which includes DRAGON will be at Cape and helping. (c) "D" Class Cruisers required to escort FURIOUS to Takoradi and back (date (d) Cruiser escort required for French Legion from Duala to Freetown (dates) DELHI should be able to (c) and (d) if taken off Libreville patrol. (C. in C. S.A. 1815N/14 to Admty).

(e) "SHRAPNEL", 4 - 6 sloops or Corvettes required to replace destroyers. MILFORD, Libreville patrol require 6 days to reach Freetown. BRIDGEWATER arrived Freetown 12/12 and then acts as A/S escort for convoy. 2 Corvettes arrive (date) Freetown 4 more arrive (date). It will be appreciated that to meet these commitments MILFORD should be recalled from Libreville patrol now, DELHI to leave by (date) leaving no vessels for this patrol after that date. If MILFORD leaves at once 4 escorting vessels will be available for "SHRAPNEL" (date). Sloops are more suitable for this having larger armament. During "SHRAPNEL there will be few vessels available for convoy escort. Intend to recall MILFORD to Freetown now and employ DELHI as outlined above. (C. in C. S.A. 1817/14 to Admty).

Troop Transport.

Your 2353/10 and others request details troops to be disembarked from Neuralia at Freetown. Disembarkation of a large number of troops and transhipment of French may delay convoy for about two days. (C. in C. S.A. 2017/14 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

MALAYA. Your 1931/13. Approved to send MALAYA to join Force K. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. Med., 0053/14).

Aerodromes. Requirements for additional aerodromes, staff, Greece and Turkey. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 0859/14 to Air Min.).

Air Report, Western Desert. Operational summary 187 to 1200/14. Shipping seen in Benghazi. No naval items. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1312/14).

Movements. Summary No. 177. (C.in C. Med., 1641/14).

Air Strength. Examination of means of employing the force you envisage (details). (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1821/14 to Air Ministry).

Base Defences. Eastern Mediterranean, re supply of material. (C.in C. Med., 1247/14).

Crotone bombed. Four Wellingtons 148 Sq. despatched to attack Valona night 13/14th. Two returned with bombs. One jettisoned bombs in sea owing to ice formation. Fourth Wellington unable to reach main objective dropped bombs and incendiaries round Crotone Harbour. All bombs seem to burst along waterfront. (H.Q. Malta 0810/14).

F.A.A. attack Tripoli. 8 Swordfish 830 Sq. F.A.A. despatched to attack shipping and facilities Tripoli Harbour night 13/14th. Dive bombing attack from 2,000 feet. Two sticks burst among ships in mid-harbour. 2 hits on ship alongside main north Mole. Warehouses on west of harbour well hit causing large explosions fire started on North Mole and a second ship alongside hit - followed by explosion.
(H.Q. Malta 0810/14).

Enemy Intelligence. Greek Vice-Consul Tripoli under open arrest Tripoli 30/10 to 25/11 ditto Rome to 5/12 arrived at Athens 10/12 reports:-
(a) Convoys at irregular intervals approached from westward. Destroyers often from north-eastward. (b) Gate open during daylight for traffic.
(c) Usually twelve or more Merchant vessels in harbour.
(d) Tankers berth alongside centre inside Karamanli Mole. Ships moored in Middle Harbour discharge petrol in barrels into lighters.
(e) Destroyers berth at western end of Naval Basin and inside northern end of Karamanli Mole. Sunset is usual time of departure.

/ (f) ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

(f) M.A.S. enter harbour at sunset and berth in north-east corner of Naval Basin also three hundred yards north-eastward.
(g) S080 at eastern end of warehouses on Spanish Quay.
(h) Anti-aircraft batteries on Island one cable north-west central Power Station: also one hundred yards north of point where railway cuts defended wall near Porta Benito also on roof of Grand Hotel. (Athens 1519/14, to S.O.I. Alexandria).

Malta Air Raids.

Combined services report from 1700/13 to 1700/14. All times G.M.T.
14/12 0900 - 0918. Formation of CR.42's crossed the Island at 20000 feet evidently on reconnaissance. When engaged by A.A. formation broke up. 6 Hurricanes up but no interception. 1210-1237 enemy formations of 5 bombers and 10 fighters flew across the island and dropped a stick of bombs from Spinola to Flfla (sic) i.e. over inhabited area. 4 Hurricanes up but no interception. No service casualties or damage. Small number of civilian casualties but not serious. Appreciable damage to civil property. No naval or military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/14).

Air reconnaissance report 14/12.
(a) Naples. Two Battleships five cruisers about 15 destroyers 8 large Merchant Vessels, berthed as reported previously. Convoy of five Merchant Vessels entering the harbour at 1000 (zone - approximate).
(b) Messina. Two cruisers two destroyers four submarines two one thousand ton Merchant Vessels leaving harbour.
(c) Tripoli (Africa). Four destroyers and three torpedo boats one large Merchant Vessel. No visible damage. Photographs not yet examined.
(e) Air Raid Malta no service damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1709/14 to C.in C. Med.)

COVENTRY torpedoed. My 2249/13 (undecypherable, repetition called for) COVENTRY arrived in Harbour. She was torpedoed by S/M. Damage confined to fore side of bulkhead and lower deck and below. Fore portion of stem unbroken below 16 foot water line. No apparent damage to machinery or equipment beyond loss of paravane clump and chain. Further signal after docking. (C.in C. Med., 1939Z/14 to Admty.)

Italian communique claims COVENTRY torpedoed by NEGHELLI (D.S., 468).

/ KIRKIEMOOR, ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

KIRKIEMOOR, Boom Defences.

My 1025/5/11. Expected that Boom Carrier KIRKIEMOOR loaded with 1.3 miles of A/S A/S for Suda Bay will be sailed from Rosyth for Port Said via The Cape on or soon after 16/12. (D.B.D., 2024/14 to C.in C. Med.)

Valona bridgehead.

Yugo-Slav Government have information that Italians are organising a heavily defended bridgehead round Valona, whether to cover disembarkation reinforcements or evacuation they do not know.
(M.A., Belgrade, 2115/14 to W.O.)

MOST SECRET.

14.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

BATHURST. Commissioned 6/12, left Sydney 0012Z/14 for Westernpost. (A.C.N.B. 1438Z/14).

U.S.S. Sailing delayed (date) due to defect in CANBERRA, needing docking. (A.C.N.B. 0733Z/14).

East Indies.

Troop Convoys. Your 1234/11. Cannot ships be made available for service U.K. to Middle East by replacing suitable ones at present in your service by ships already released. (D. of S.T. 0430/14 to P.S.T.O. India).

Air Reports. Soudan. No naval items. (operational Summary 187. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1313/14 1314/14)
Aden. No naval items. (operational Summary 185 (A.H.Q. Aden, 1924/14)

Red Sea Convoys. Following programme Red Sea South bound convoys will be run.
B.S. 11½., B.S. 11½., S.W.4.A., B.S.12., S.W.4.B., B.S.13., contents and dates. (C.in C. E.I. 0742Z/14)(See operations Vol.)

DEVONSHIRE. Your 1212Z/12. DEVONSHIRE has orders to proceed Durban on relief with W.S.4.B. (C.in C. S.A. to C.in C.E.I., 1105N/14).

RANCHI. My 0814/10. RANCHI is to proceed now to Mombasa so as to arrive a.m./19. Call at Mahe is to be omitted. RANCHI is to proceed South of Seychelles. (C.in C. E.I. to RANCHI, 1150Z/14).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Air Strength.

Reply to appreciation of situation re possible Japanese aggression against N.E. India and Assam.
(Air Ministry to H.Q. R.A.F. India, 1435/14
(See Original copy).

Red Sea Force Composition, Aden Force.

C.in C. Red Sea Force is ashore Aden with Flag in LUCIA. Red Sea Force consisting of LEANDER, PERTH, CALEDON, KANDAHAR, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY, AUCKLAND, FLAMINGO, SHOREHAM, CLIVE, GRIMSBY, INDUS, HINDUSTAN, YARRA, PARRAMATTA.
Aden Force consisting of LUCIA, CANTALA, CHAKDINA, MOONSTONE, SAGITTA, AMBER.
Cancel C messages 616, 665 670, 691 and 744.
(C.in C. E.I. 0942Z/14).

Djibuti.

Conversations with Antoine 12/12. General Ayme refuses Italian instructions to désarm four battalions after British refusal to evacuate them and states that Italians must themselves disarm. Italians decided against on condition that French remained neutral and resisted all possible attempts of British expecting to be landed. General Ayme agreed and he and his Chief of Staff have left the country. General Ayme's anti-British feeling has increased. He considered return of Consul (other than Jakins) might be discussed if question of FREDERIC SOUVAGE (?transhipment) in time were reconsidered.
(S.N.O. Red Sea 1908Z/14 to C.in C.E.I.)

America and West Indies.

Fruit Transport.

Your 1545/9. (loading of fruit in TILAPA, BAYANO). Concur in your proposals.
(D.S.T. to N.O.I.C. Kingston 0431/14).

U.S.Bases.

Re negotiations for lease of Morgan and Tucker Islands.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1141/14 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Air Strength.

Reply to appreciation of situation re possible Japanese aggression against N.E. India and Assam.
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(S.N.O. Red Sea 1908Z/14 to C.in C.E.I.)

America and West Indies.

Fruit Transport.

Your 1545/9. (loading of fruit in TILAPA, BAYANO). Concur in your proposals.
(D.S.T. to N.O.I.C. Kingston 0451/14).

U.S.Bases.

Re negotiations for lease of Morgan and Tucker Islands.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1141/14 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

HERCOGS JEKABS.	S.O.I. Callao's 1200/14. This Latvian ship failing satisfactory assurance re American Coastal Trade only, to be sent into Esquimalt. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1633/14 to PRINCE ROBERT).
Force K.	Adty. 1917/24. Request policy for Force K may be communicated to me, particularly re acting under my orders when operating against raiders within A.W.I. Station. (C.in C. A.W.I. to Adty), (2151/14).
T.C.8.	Your 2240/6 T.C.8. As maximum speed of PENNLAND is only 13½ knots propose that after meeting local escort REVENGE should weather permitting proceed ahead with GKYL (Signal letters undecypherable) and CAPETOWN CASTLE at 18 knots with five destroyers leaving three destroyers to escort PENNLAND and COLOMBIA at their best speed. (F.O.3B.S. 1527/14 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.12.1940. Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LARISSA — Arrived, 3000 tons of manganese ore from Russia. (Macrae, Galeta 1215/14).

ORINOCO. — My 2232/13. In view of possible break out by ORINOCO, CARADOC's orders amended as follows. Leave Jamaica s.n./15 and proceed Nassau via Crooked Island Passage so as to arrive s.n. 17. Fuel from Oiler WAR BRAHMIN and await further orders. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1001/14).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

WESTERN PRINCE. British 10,926 tons. (routed independently to U.K.) Following has been read: Position 59.32 N., 17.47 W. WESTERN PRINCE torpedoed 0702 (Lyness W/T, 0806/14). BRIGAND to proceed to assist (position) at 0802 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0820/14, to BRIGAND) Detach 1 destroyer to position. Report name. (C.in C. W.A., 0824/14 to ACTIVE) Reporting distress message received from C.S.O. 5 Corps (as above). (C.in C. Portsmouth 0915/14 to Admty). Your 0824. ACTIVE detailed. (ACTIVE 0929/14 to C.in C. W.A.).
Mackay Radio reports WESTERN PRINCE attacked. Request any information and we be kept fully informed as Mr.Howe, Minister of Munitions and three of his staff on board. (C.N.S. Canada, 1201/14 to Admty.)
Your 1201/14 WESTERN PRINCE torpedoed 0702/14 and feared sunk. Survivors are known to have been picked up. Further signal will be made when details are known. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2101/14 to C.N.S. Canada).
Most of the survivors of WESTERN PRINCE have been picked up by BARON KINNAIRD who is returning to Clyde having insufficient accommodation. On completing present operation shall continue searching although unlikely that submarine is in vicinity or BARON KINNAIRD would have been attacked before my arrival. Request instructions. (ACTIVE, 1645/14 to C.in C. W.A.).
Your 1645/14. Was Mr. Howe Canadian Minister of Munitions and Staff among survivors picked up by BARON KINNAIRD? (A.C.N.S.(T) 2201/14 to ACTIVE).
Your 1645/14. Rejoin Convoy. (C.in C. W.A. 2212/14 to ACTIVE)
See also under RAZOR BILL.

ORARI (torpedoed 13/12)

Detach 1 destroyer to meet and escort to North Channel ORARI torpedoed and now proceeding 51.20 N., 17.40 W. at 0436/14 course 050° 10 knots. (C.in C. W.A. to WHITEHALL, 1312/14)
My 1312 ORARI reported position, course and speed 052° 00'N. 015° 31'W. 070° ten knots at 1050/14. (C.in C. W.A. 1412/14 to WHITEHALL).
Your 1312/14th VANQUISHER detailed. My position course and speed at 1500, 055° 07' N. 012° 38' W. 163°, 20 knots. (VANQUISHER, 1600/14 to C.in C. W.A.)

/ PETER MAERSK. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked (Contd.)

PETER MAERSK.

British, 5476 tons. S.S.S.S. 32.28 N., 23.28 N., 23.32 W., attacked by submarine. (PETER MAERSK, 1053/14) (D.O.R. 15/12) Position about 300 miles W. of Madeira (D.S. 467).

TOWA.

My 2138/13 (ROTORUA sunk, search for TOWA) Tug MARAUDER reports proceeding Stornoway to disembark injured man and to make temporary repairs.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1529/14, to C.in C. W.A.).

GWALIA
(torpedoed 1/12)

My 1604/6 VIDETTE reports having picked up 4 crew of Swedish GWALIA in position 037° 40' N. 014° 50' W. Ship is reported to have been torpedoed during daylight hours, 1/12.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1632/14).

EMPIRE RAZORBILL.

British, 5118 tons (ex O.B. 257)
Following has been read.
Submarine Raider.
Position 69° 5'N. 18°W. EMPIRE RAZORBILL at 1915 G.M.T. torpedoed.
(Wick Radio, 1933/14).

Corrected position now 59.31 N. 13.15 W. EMPIRE RAZORBILL now followed by submarine. (Wick Radio 1939/14).

Correct position now 59.31 N. 13.15 W. EMPIRE RAZORBILL now followed by Submarine. (Valentia Radio 1942/14).

EMPIRE RAZORBILL Position 59.41 N. 17.50 W. at 1950 shelled and followed by Submarine. (Valentia Radio, 1958/14 Wick Radio 2001/14).

Detach one ship to attack S/M reported following EMPIRE RAZORBILL shelled in position 059° 41'N. 017° 50'W. at 2000. (C.in C. W.A. 2120/14 to ANTELOPE).

Your 2120/14 ANTELOPE detailed (?my position) 059° 55'N. 014° 50'W. mean course to 0900, 119° speed 7½ knots. (ANTELOPE 2230/14 to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 2214/14. (See under WESTERN PRINCE) Found RAZORBILL at 2215 in position 059° 29'N. 018° 03'W. Only damage on board ? fire and no casualties. Ship reports submarine last seen 20 miles 345° from above position at 2020. Proceed to hunt (ACTIVE, 2255/14, to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 2152/14 As convoy dispersed in 059° 48' N. 015° 45' W. RAZORBILL'S 2001 supersedes her 1939. Am proceeding to 017° 50'W. (ANTELOPE, 2311/14, to C.in C. W.A.).
Cancel my 2120/14 and 2152/14. (C.in C. W.A. 2356/14 to ANTELOPE).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0802. A.F. message 59.52 N., 17.47 W. at 0702/14 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0831/14)

0904. D.F., approx. position of Italian U-boat 45.30 N., 05.20 W., probably proceeding to Gironde. (V.A.S., to S/M's Area B, 0928/14).

1729. D.F., Italian U/B in area 44.30 - 45.30 N., 8° - 9.30 W. (D.D.I.C., 1841/14)

1053. 32.28 N., 23.32 W., sighted by PETER MAERSK (D.S. 467).

Search, W. APP. My 1318/13. If nothing seen by 1000 return to Londonderry. BROKE and LA MALOUINE pass by A/S to trawlers in company.
(C.in C. W.A., 0856/14, to BROKE, SALADIN, LA MALOUINE, SARDONYX).

Your 0448/14, discontinue search and return to Belfast. (C.in C. W.A. 1055/14 to VENOMOUS).

My observed position course and speed 055° 37' N. 012° 15' W. 095° 10.
ST.ZENO and VIZALMA in company.
At 1020 spoke ELENI in 055° 34' N. 011° 55' W. straggler from H.X.93.
Weather.
(BROKE 1330/14 to C.in C. W.A.).

Search, If not in contact and no further information by dark tonight, 29th A/S S.F. and RUBY proceed to Dartmouth, JASPER proceed to Plymouth.
Merchant ships westward bound escorted by trawlers and A/P vessels may be met on passage.
KASHMIR and 3 destroyers will be operating in the channel tonight.
(C.in C. W.A., 1155/14).

Search from Milford Haven. My 1155/12. If no contact or further information discontinue hunt.
(C.in C. W.A. 1208/14 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, etc.).

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.

Italian
1 in 32° 28'N. 23° 32' W. at 1053/14.
1 near Azores
1 bound for Gironde was in about 45° 30'N. 5° 20'W. at 0904/14.
1 was probably still in area 53°N. to 54°N. 19°W. to 20°W.
1 or possibly 2 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.

German.
1 in Cape de Verde Islands area was probably in 2° 08'N. 22°W. at 1818/13.

/ 1 possibly ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.12.1940. Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.

German (contd.)
1 possibly damaged about 50° N. 11° to 12°W. bound for Lorient.
1 off North Coast of Cornwall.
1 was about 52° N. 18° W. at 2020/12 but may be the one which was in 49° 50' N. 20° 55'W. at 1957/13 and has since moved to southeastward.
1 was in about 55° 30'N. 17°W. at 1237/13.
1 was in about 55° 50'N. 20° 30'W. at 1854/13.
1 probably in area off Bloody Foreland.
1 was in 59° 32'N. 17° 47'W. at 0302/14 and may have moved to westward.
(D.D.I.C. 1353/14).

Submarines Attacked.

0455. Have attacked S/M contact. My position 345° Hartland Point 8 miles. (MIGRANTE, 0455/14, to N.O.I.C. Cardiff) Join MIGRANTE hunting U-boat in position 345° Hartland Point 8 miles at 0455/14. (C.in C. W.A. 0542/14 to KASHMIR).

Mediterranean.

NAIDE sunk. At 1850/14 by a destroyer under Capt. D.2, 32.03 N., 25.56 E., 064° Bardia 43'. (D.S. 468). See Mediterranean 15/12.

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MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Greenock. Rescue Tug Situation.

I have at present no Rescue Tugs available for service. Particulars. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1225/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

Use of M.L's for Air Rescue work.

My 1526/14. As rough weather trials of M.L. 135 have proved these craft to be capable of withstanding bad weather it is intended to use the M.L's now becoming available in this command for air rescue work. As consecutive numbers of M.L's become available they will be transferred to their Flotilla bases being replaced by others assembling at Plymouth vide A.M. 2047/25/11. (C.in C. W.A. 1744/15 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/15. (D.C. 1153/15). At 2330/15 (D.C. 2331/15).

Dungeness. Relief of MEDDO.

Personnel.

Your 1805/14. Disposal of equipment of Battery is being reconsidered but personnel are required now.
2. Request therefore that relief be carried out and guns manned until either.
(a) the guns are required for other purpose; or
(b) the personnel can again be relieved by R.M. unit now forming.
(D. of L.D. 1220/15 to HORORS 144).

Movements.

COSSACK } SIKH }

Intend sailing 0905 today for Scapa. E.T.A. 2359/15. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0061/15) Sailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1004/15)

JERSEY

Arrived Plymouth 1122/14. (C.in C. W.A. 0032/15).

RAMILLIES

Approximate position at 0830/16, 58° 10' N. 6° 3' W. (C.in C. W.A. 0144/16) Sailed 0716 with FARNIR, CATTISTOCK, HOLDERNESS, CLEVELAND as by my 1623/14 and my 2109/14, routed by QZF. 18 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0821/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

DIDO } HOTSPUR }

Arrived Scapa (A.C.O.S. 0845/15).

VENOMOUS

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0716/15).

WRESTLER

Your 1458/14. Arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0026/15).

M.T.B. 107.

My 1912/14. Left Sheerness 0530/16 on lorry with Torpedo and Stores. (Cdre. Sheerness 0956/15).

/ RAMSEY } HEADING }

.....

MOST SECRET.

15.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

RAMSEY READING	Intend sailing 1600/16 for Plymouth. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1006/15).
KELVIN	Sailed for Plymouth (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1050/15) Proceed to Liverpool. (C.in C. W.A. 1202/15 to KELVIN) Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2115/15).
KASHMIR, KIPLING. PUNJABI, JUPITER	Arrived 1055. (C.in C. W.A. 1204/15).
BRIGHTON.	Your 1601/14. Concur. Hoped BRIGHTON ready leave Plymouth P.M./20 (C.in C. W.A. 1207/15).
FURIOUS.	Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1213/15).
CHITRAL.	Left Reykjavik 1300/15 G.M.T. E.T.A. Clyde 1300/18. (F.O. Iceland 1215 Z/15).
INTREPID.	To be sailed for Immingham on completing repairs. (A.C.N.S. N. 1222/15 to C.in C. Rosyth). Request you sail accordingly. (C.in C. Rosyth 1659/15 to N.O.I.C. Hartlepool).
HAVELOCK.	Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1237/15).
WITCH WITHERINGTON	C.in C. W.A. 1456/10 and A.M. 2250/6. Intend to sail at 1700 today for Liverpool. E.T.A. 0630/17. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1247/15) Sailed (C.in C. Portsmouth 1733/15).
BROKE	Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1315/15).
2 Tribal Destroyers for Mediterranean.	Cancel my 2157/12 and 2200/12. (D.O.D. H. 1334/15).
18th M/S Group.	Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1342/15).
RODNEY MATABELE, ELECTRA ESCAPADE, HULLDOG	Arrived Scapa 1330 (A.C.O.S. 1407/15).
QUEEN ELIZABETH HIGHLA, CURACOA, SOUTHDOWN, EXMOOR, FITCHLEY, BRILLIANT	Arrived 1330 (C.in C. Rosyth 1422/15).
NIGERIA, SOUTHDOWN, BRILLIANT	Sailed for Scapa. (C.in C. Rosyth 1482/15) NIGERIA arrived Scapa 1940/15 (A.C.O.S. 2024/15).
AMAZON.	Sailed as by Capt. D. Greenock's 1740/14. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1556/15).

/ QUORN. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

QUORN — Arrived 1620. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1650/15).

CHURCHILL. — Sailed 1717. E.T.A. Scapa 1000/17. (C.in C. W.A. 1958/15).

WILD SWAN. — E.T.A. Lough Foyle 0800/17. (WILD SWAN 2033/15).

FULOLO, WORCESTERSHIRE, AMBUSCADE — Sailed as by F.O.C.N.P. 1302/14 and 1304/14. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2215/15).

Operations.

Operation FXA — Intend sail M.L's 106 and 110 today to carry out FXA. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1205/15 to C.in C. Nore) Operation cancelled owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1435/15 to C.in C. Nore).

Operation SPECIMEN — At 2000/15 PEGASUS and PERIWINKLE in 52° 30' N. (?19°) 40'W. steering 123° at 5 knots. (WILD SWAN 2033/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

Convoy F.S.60. N.C. MONBERG (Danish, 2301 tons) torpedoed and sunk. — One Enemy War Motor Boat bearing 100° 2 miles course unknown, position 52° 44'N. 2°12'E. (WOOLSTON 2100/15).
One ship torpedoed. (LOWESTOFT 2113/15 to C.in C. Nore)
Trawler CAPE PORTLAND standing by. (LOWESTOFT 2121/15 to C.in C. Nore).
Tug KROOMAN leaving Yarmouth now. (C.in C. Nore 2205/15 to CAPE PORTLAND)
Sailed Tug KROOMAN to assist. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2250/15).

At 2110/15 WOOLSTON reported one enemy war boat sighted 2 miles 100° from 52°44'N. 2°12'E. At 2113 Lowestoft reported one ship in F.S. 60 torpedoed. Enemy retired to eastward at 2127 H.M. Trawlers CAPE PORTLAND and LE TIGRE stood by the torpedoed vessel, Danish S.S. N.C. MONBERGH 2300 tons. Later reported N.C. MONBERGH sank in 35 fathoms position 52°40'N. 02°10'E. Trawlers returning to Harwich with survivors. LE TIGRE and survivors CAPE PORTLAND 2 - both unconscious. (C.in C. Nore 0655/16 to Adty.)

/ At 2105/15 ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

At 2105/15 when two miles south of Smiths Knoll Light Vessel WOOLSTON on port quarter of convoy detected fast H.E. on Port Beam. Immediately turned towards and went full speed and at same time saw two torpedo tracks pass under ship. Torpedoes hit M.C. MOUBURG third ship in Port column and vessel subsequently sank. Survivors picked up by trawlers CAPE PORTLAND and LE TIGER. WOOLSTON sighted and engaged target at range about 1500 yards. Target turned away at high speed and disappeared behind smoke screen and nothing further was seen or heard of enemy. Weather foggy, visibility at the time about one mile. (LOWESTOFT 1450/15 to Adty.)

Submarines.

SEAWOLF. C.in C. W.A. 1513/12 to S.5. Intend sail unescorted at 1430/16. Route to R/V at 1030/17 in 110° Start Point 3 miles. (S.5. 0940/15).

THUNDERBOLT. My 0958/12. Amended R/V for Escort at 0845/16. SBR postponed 24 hours. (S. 2. 1204/15 to THUNDERBOLT)

TRIDENT. Intend sail from Clyde 0845/17 escorted by CUTTY SARK. (S.2. 1206/15).

SEVERN. My 1158/15. E.T.A. Clyde 2100/16. (C.in C. W.A. 1318/15 to Adty.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1341/15).

L. 23. Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1621/15).

UNBEATEN Route to R/V with WHITE BEAR and to Barrow (S.3. 1737/15).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/16. (V.A.S. 1758/15 and 0334/16).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. CHUTO being flown to-day instead of NUGGY. (C.in C. Rosyth 0328/15)
Patrol by Blenheim from Dyce to Flamborough and return. (C.in C. Rosyth 0828/15).
S.A.2 and S.A.3 ordered for today. (C.in C. Rosyth 0830/15).

Lorient } Brest. } 53 and 50 Sqdns. to attack S/M's and Dockyard at Lorient tonight. Alternative Target, Power Stations and Dockyard at Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1230/15 to 16 Group, Thorney Island).

/Bordeaux } Lorient } .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Bordeaux)
Lorient)

217 Sqdn. to attack S/M's at Bordeaux tonight. Alternative Target S/M's at Lorient. (H.Q.C.C. 1231/15 to 15 Group, St. Eval) (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1445/15 to Adty.)

Hatston.

C.in C. H.F. suggests possibility of reinforcing 42 Squadron with a detachment from 22 Squadron. Request your remarks. (A.C.H.S. H. 1523/15 to Air Ministry).

Rosyth. Special arrangements.

A.271 15/12.
Owing to special importance attacking to Rosyth you are requested to repeat this requirement to any other authority affected. Admiralty request to signal immediately special situation ceases. Group controller is temporarily authorised to permit barrage fire against X raids which appear likely to threaten the vital area. In view of above conditions presume H.A.H.A.S. will make special arrangements about flying from Carl.
(H.Q.F.C. 1630/15 to Air Ministry).

Ops 6 15/12. Special importance is attached to Rosyth from 15/12.
All aircraft should be routed to avoid the defended area. Notification will be issued when necessity no longer exists.
(H.Q.C.C. 2320/15 to 13 Group).

Mining.

Great Yarmouth.

Port open. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0851/15).

Nore.

PENTONIAN reports one red mine detonated by L.L. Trawlers 2315/14, 226° B.7 Buoy, 1.5 miles near inside. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1029/15 to C.in C. Nore).

ADVENTURE.

To load and report when complete with mines and fuel and at 4 hours notice. (D.O.D.(H) 1200/15 to C.in C. W.A.).
Your 1200/15. Loading and fuelling progressing satisfactorily expect to complete 2100/15. (ADVENTURE, 1724/15 to Admty.)
Your 1200/15. Completed with mines and fuel and now at 4 hours notice.
(ADVENTURE 2130/15 to Admty.)

Operation D.S.47.

Postponed another 24 hours (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham 1104/15 to Admty.)
My 1008/13 and my 1346/14. Postponed a further 24 hours (C.in C. Rosyth, 1404/15 to H.Q. Fighter Command).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

LUTZOW
SCHLESIEN
TIRPITZ
BISMARCK

Positions on 14/12. (D.D.I.C. 1057/15)

Unknown Ship.

NORTHERN CHIEF sighted a ship in 62°32'N. 13°35'W. at 1445/15, steering S.S.E. Contact lost in heavy rain. (F.O.C.N.P. 1357/15 to WOLFE)

E-Boat

Bearing 100° 2 miles from 52°44'N. 2°12'E. (WOOLSTON 2100/15)

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ORION. (Greek, 4798 tons) Steering broken in 50°55'N. 37°20'W. Help immediately. (Wick Radio 0028/15).
AMICUS proceeding to assist. Expects arrive 1400 G.M.T. ORION bearing 63° from Cape Race. (Valentia Radio 0236/15).

EMPIRE ELK In tow of LA MALOUINE at 2222/14 in 56°40'N. 3°W. Proceed to assist. (P.O.I.C. Greenock 0140/15 to SUPERMAN, ANEMONE).
Sailed ENGLISHMAN 0917/15 to assist. (P.O.I.C. Greenock 0943/15) of Barra, Course 150°, Speed 1 knot. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1620/15 to ANEMONE).
Tow turned over to SUPERMAN. Am returning to base. (LA MALOUINE 1206/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

TYSA. (Dutch, 5327 tons) At 0445 G.M.T. Steering gear broken again and now unrepairable. Require immediate assistance. (Valentia Radio, 0601/15)
Ship is in 042° Skerryvore Light 8 miles. Can you send a tug. (Greenock 0656/15 to Adty.)
TYSA not found. Visibility bad. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 1630 (LA MALOUINE 1206/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

STORNEST (British, 4365 tons) Leak developed. Doubtful if can control. Request urgent assistance. Position 51°7'N. 32°37'W. (STORNEST 1447/15)
Leak partly under control. Still request somebody stand by me. Position at 1800 G.M.T. 51°18'N. 32°11'W. Course 070°. (Valentia Radio 1808/15).

BRITOMART)
SEAGULL) (Fleet Mine-Sweepers) Both damaged in collision. Repairs to SEAGULL can be made locally. Request where BRITOMART should be sent. (A.C.O.S. 2001/15 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.12.1940. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoy Escorts. Admty. 1223/15. Observations on strength of escorts and maximum numbers in convoys. (See Situation Report). (C.in C. W.A., 1600/15 to Admty.)

Convoys. Estimated positions 0900/15. (D.T.D. 1101/15 to C.in C. H.F.).

E.N. 42. Escorts STELLA, CAPELLA, HORNPIPE, additional escort LONDONDERRY. 10 ships, (7 overseas). Codes, "Mission", "Monitor", "Mixture". (N.C.S.O. Methil 1650/15).

F.N. and F.S. Cancel my 1019/6. Forecast of sailings. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0947/15).

E.N. 41. Escorts ANGLE, SALTARELLO, additional PONEY, NOTTS COUNTY, OPHELIA. 26 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1935/15).

H.N. 53 O. List. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1530/15).

E.N. 39. List. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1300/15). Arrived less TYSA. (1630/15).

W.N. 54. Sailed 1420/15. Escorts HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH. 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1221/15, 1715/15).

O.B.N. 260. ROSEMARY. 9 ships. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1431/15).

F.S. 61. Sailed 1500/15. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1511/15).

S.C. 16. My 1806/12. Doubtful if LACONIA can overtake. ROYAL SOVEREIGN to give cover up to 030° W. to this convoy and H.X.96 and H.X.97 (F.O. 3 B.S., 1114/15) Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O., Halifax 1406/15, 1406/15, 1536/15)

H.X. 96. Sailing telegram. Escort RANPURA, B.M.X., ALAUNIA. (C.O.A.C., Halifax 1118/15).

F.S.60. Am in company with QUORN and convoy position 053° 55'N. 000° 19'E. (LOWESTOFT 0201/15 to C.in C. Rosyth). Estimated position 053° 22'N. 001° 00'W. (LOWESTOFT 0307/15).

E.N. 42. } W.N. 55. } Sail 1030/15 for Methil, C.O. attending Conference there 1415. Act subsequently as additional A/A escort to E.N. 42, sailing from Methil 2200/15. After E.N.42 has passed Dunnet Head, proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. requested sail LONDONDERRY to join W.N. 55 due Duncansby 1400/19. (C.in C. Rosyth 1123/15 to LONDONDERRY).

/ S.L. 57 S. .....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

S.L. 57 S. — P.O.C.H.P. 1302/14. R/V with WORCESTERSHIRE and BULOLO at Gate at 2200. When detached by WORCESTERSHIRE take AMAZON under your orders and proceed to R/V with S.L. 57 S. and remainder 3rd escort group in 053° 07'N., 016° 50' W. at 1000/18. (Capt (D) 12, 1138/15 to AMBUSCADE).

O.B. 259. — Londonderry departures 15/12, SHIKARI, SCIMITAR, SKATE, MALLOW, WELLARD, NORTHERN DAWN for O.B. 259. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1505/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

H.X. 93. — ACHATES position, course and speed at 1200/15, 059° 47'N., 012° 42'W., 160° four knots, 8 ships and trawlers in company, (C.in C. W.A. 1756/15 to ACTIVE).
Am in company ACHATES and LADY MADELINE and 7 ships of H.X.93. You should try and join HEATHER who has 11 ships. (ACTIVE, 2030/15 to ANTELOPE).

S.L. 57. — ORARI has arrived Clyde, proceed to join convoy S.L. 57. (C.in C. W.A., 0726/15, to VANQUISHER).

S.L. 57. — Estimated p. c. and s. of S.L.57 at 1930. A. 051° 40'N. 021° 00' W. 060° eight knots. My speed of advance on route ordered in your 1154/14, 14 knots. Weather. (GAWTON, 2101A/15, to C.in C. W.A.).

E.N. 40.
E.C.14. — Leave E.N. 40 and proceed escort ATHENIC and 7 ships ex S.C. 14 now at Stornoway but have been ordered to proceed South. Inform Commodore one trawler is to escort to Oban ships bound for E. coast ports, remaining ships to be escorted to North Channel by other trawler. Trawlers return to Belfast. (C.in C. W.A., 1812/15 to Trawlers KING SOL, ARAB).

E.N. Convoys. — For new few weeks E.N. convoys will sail from Southend at 0630 adjustment of time-table given in C.in C. Rosyth's 1943/24/11 is not considered necessary. (C.in C. Nore. 2122/15 to C.in C. Rosyth)

S.C.16. — Halifax departure 15/12. H.M.C.S. COLLINGWOOD, local escort S.C.16. (S.O.I. Halifax, 2125/15).

/ Raiders, W/T watch. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Raiders, W/T watch. Admty. message "D.W." Suspected that surface raiders are locating ships sailing independently by obtaining D/F bearings of oscillating W/T receivers. Whilst it is essential that W/T watch should be kept in these ships, any Master who suspects that his receiver may be oscillating should:-
Report to N.C.S.O., Owner or Agent at next port of call, pointing out that his ship is being endangered by the inefficiency of the equipment and request advice and assistance in remedying such inefficiency.
Impress on Radio Officer the danger entailed in trying to read distant W/T stations with an indifferent receiver, especially in quiet W/T areas such as the South Pacific.
(D.T.D. 1339/15 to C.B.M.S. (in all areas).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

OREGON. My 0938/13 sailed OREGON. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1811/15 to Adty.)

CUBA. My 1951/13. Total of 929 French from CUBA embarked MOUZINHO and SERPA PINTO which sailed 15/12. (C.in C. S.A. 1901/15 to adty amended 2255N/15).

North Atlantic.

Azores. Force H less SHEFFIELD to establish Azores patrol to prevent any enemy attempt to capture these islands. See Admiralty 2146/30/10 and F.O.C.N.A's 1152/10/12.
(D.O.D.(F) 0200/15 to F.O.Force H).

My 0200/15. Secret information indicates that Germany may attempt to capture the Azores either by a seaborne expedition or by Transport aircraft either float planes landing at Horta, Timbay or Ponta Delgada or land planes landing on Terceiro aerodrome. Former might start from Bordeaux or Gijon in North Spain, latter from Bordeaux or Laon 60 miles south of Gijon.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0200/15 to F.O.Force H.)

RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and six destroyers will arrive in vicinity of Azores p.m. 16/12.
(D.O.D.(F) 0210/15 to CACHALOT F.O.C.N.P. to Western Patrol).

ORANGELEAF. Request you will sail ORANGELEAF to join Force H.
(D.O.D.(F) 0216/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ORANGELEAF. (Contd.)

Adty. 0216/15. ORANGELEAF sails 1800/15 to comply with orders. (1144/15).

ORANGELEAF escorted by WISHART sailing 1800/15 route. KINGSTON JACINTH on patrol between Cape St.Vincent and Cadiz. (F.O.C.N.A.Station. 1155/15).

Gibraltar departure 1815/15/12 ORANGELEAF in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 1155/15 escorted until dark 16/12 by WISHART. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 2026/15 to Adty).

Whalers.

Arrived and left 14/12 H.M.Whalers SWONS SKUDD III SKUDD IV SKUDD V. (British Consul S.t Vincent. 0900/15 to Adty).

SHEFFIELD VIDETTE.

Gibraltar arrivals 15/12 0800 SHEFFIELD 0945 VIDETTE. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 0952/15).

ASPHODEL CALENDULA.

ASPHODEL CALENDULA arrived Ponta Delgada 1500 G.M.T. 15/12. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1520/15).

Suspicious Ship.

A loaded tanker with Campsa colouring and similar to CAMPOAMOR except she had cruiser stern was sighted in 31° 6'N., 21° 38'W at 1015 G.M.T. 5/12 course south. Name ESPANO on bridge structure and on board abaft funnel. Can this have been a Spanish tanker recently acquired? (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1656/15 to N.A. Madrid).

Daily Summary Operations.

Two routine A.S.patrols. One surface reconnaissance to East, one reconnaissance vicinity Casablanca. (200 Group, 1730/15 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Oil Supplies.

Your 0216/15 and your 1205/5. Owing to large issue of diesel oil to A.M.Cs. reducing stock to very low level Oiler ORANGELEAF will be sailed with only (?250) tons of diesel on board. Quantity on board CAIRNDALE has been reduced to 200 tons but will be replenished on arrival if BRITISH UNION. (A.S.Gibraltar 1800/15 to Adty).

South Atlantic.

BRIDGEWATER.

U/Boat report while assisting ENGLISH TRADER. (See U/Boat Campaign.)

MILFORD.

Proceed to Freetown with despatch fuelling Lagos if required. (C.in C. S.A. 1101N/15 to MILFORD).

S.E.F., S.A.

Admiralty's 1202/12. (Responsibility of Union Gov. for Flotilla based at Alexandria) Action by Admiralty not now necessary. My 1800B/13 para. two (B) Defence Dept: st to term disability includes pensions to Widows and Dependents. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1202B/15 to Adty).

Suspicious Vessel.

Your 1434/14. (Sighting of suspicious ship). No, but almost certain not Spanish. Suggest possibly German SAMLAND. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1649/15 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

Four Machine Guns shipped in FURIOUS for disembarkation at Freetown for ultimate delivery to QUEEN OF BERMUDA.
(D.O.D.(F) 1845/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

Foreign Legion Movement.

Your tel.T.two 13/12 ships should only be in Freetown one to two days. Unlikely ships available earlier if CAPO OLMO goes to Pointe Noire first as requested by Free French authorities. N.C.S.O. Duala has full details and instructions to arrange with French authorities. Question of escort has to be considered also.
(C.in C. S.A. 1143/15 to Military Mission Brazzaville).

Shrapnel Force.

Your 1759/14. Summary of latest information will be signalled. If opposition is encountered the operation is to be carried through by force.
Your 1931/14 yacht SURPRISE completes refit (date).
(D.O.D.(F) 1953/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

CUBA, INDOCHINOIS repatrioes.

My 1951/13 and 1955/13 MOUZINHO with 403 and SERPA PINTO with 526 passengers left Freetown 15/12 for Casablanca. Both ships granted Navicerts and both masters gave undertaking required by A.T.1939/10 to C.in C. S.A.
(C.in C. S.A. 2005N/15 to Adty).

Walvis Bay.

Your 1307/9 and related signals.
Policy re Walvis Bay for use of Bunkering.
(D.T.D. 2318/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Press Communique. Intend issuing following(Communique on Western Desert operations in support of Army, sinking of Submarine NAIADE, F.A.A. attack on Tripoli night 13.14/12) (C.in C. Med, 1200/15).

TETRARCH. Reports completely blank patrol, only sighting being 1 A/C. Majority of patrol spent vicinity of Pelagosa Island. (V.A. Malta 1205/15).

Operation M.C.2, M.C.3. Intend following operation M.C.2. M.C.3. (C.in C. Med. 1315/15, 1407/15). See Med.Vol.)

TRUANT. Remain to west of 18 from 0400/18 to 2000/19. British surface force will be operating in your area to East. (Capt: S.1. 1853/15).

SOUTHAMPTON PERTH. To join Med. Fleet SYDNEY and GLASGOW. (D.O.D.(F) 0120/15). See Australia.

BATHURST Minesweepers. Allocation of some to Mediterranean. (D.O.D.(F) 0121/15 - See Australia).

GLASGOW. My 1501/6. Extent of damage. Temporary repairs 6 weeks. When complete estimate 20 knots. (C.in C. Med. 2229/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Naples bombed.

Special operational summary. Night 14-15/12. 9 Wellingtons in 2 Echelons despatched to attack Italian Naval Units in Naples. 1615-2200 - 4 Wellingtons dropped 8,000 lbs. S.A.P. and 960 lbs. incendiaries on and around Naval Units and docks. Three sticks were seen to burst on Jetty where 2 battleships were moored causing fires which burnt for 15 minutes. 5 hits were registered on a concentration of cruisers and destroyers and nearby four large flashes appeared at one minute intervals. Other fires were burning when target was left. Weather at first fine - clear and brilliant moon - target easily identified. 2000 - 0115 Wellingtons despatched to same. Although target was located in fleeting glimpses through gaps in cloud - only one aircraft was able to drop his load on Port near battleship. A second Wellington was hampered by ice and after an unsuccessful attempt to attack shipping found himself over Naples aerodrome and released his load on and near this. 3rd Wellington after unsatisfactory attempts to attack ports - located Margellino Station and Junction. 3 large explosions and four fires were seen on and near railway. 4th Wellington identified large buildings resembling factory at Torre Annunziata and attacked same. All 9 Wellingtons returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 0845/15).

BARBETTE, transfer to Turkey.

N.A.Angora's 2140/13. Intend transfer of BARBETTE to Turks should take place at Port Said. Officers and higher ratings should proceed Alexandria for three days for instructions in B.W.V. WAGNET which should include at least one day at sea and demonstration of use of winches, rigging etc.Maltese crew of BARBETTE are to be sent to Malta. One British officer may proceed to Turkey in BARBETTE if Turks so desire and remain up to one month for instructional purposes. Desired that BARBETTE should arrive in Turkey as soon as possible, consistent with her being turned over in an efficient condition.
(C.in C. Med. 0911/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Turkish Personnel.

My 0911/15. (No trace in W.R.)
Presume Turkish Govt. will make necessary arrangements for entry of their officers and ratings into Egypt through Turkish Ambassador Cairo.
(C.in C. Med. 0913/15).
Note. C.in C. Med. 1539/10 refers.

COVENTRY.

513. My 1939/14. (Torpedoing of COVENTRY)
Add: In view of limited damage and fact that submarine has probably since been destroyed it is proposed not to publish this incident. (C in C Med. 1035/15)

NAIADE. Sunk.

Italian submarine NAIADE was sunk in position 032° 03' 025° 56' E at 1850/14 by destroyer under Capt:(D) 2. 5 officers 10 petty officers and 32 men taken prisoner In view of importance of keeping pressure on failing Italian morale intend releasing news of sinking now.
(C.in C. Med. 1115/15).

Valona bombed.

Operational Summary No.188 up to 1200/15.
Greece. Day 14/12. 0915 hours. 8 Blenheims bombed Valona town starting a fire in the barracks and hitting M.T.yard causing clouds of black smoke. Other bombs fell near military store. 6 ships in Valona harbour. 1215 hours. 4 Blenheims attacked Valona aerodrome but 2 returned with bombs owing to failure of release gear. 1 fighter on ground damaged. Fighter Blenheims provided escort patrol for convoy. 2 Sunderlands patrolled south eastern Ionian Sea for enemy surface forces.

Bardia bombed by R.A.F. and F.A.A. TERROR bombardment.

2. Egypt. Day 14/12 0855 hours.
9 Blenheims 55 Squadron bombed Bardia, results not observed as Squadron was intercepted by enemy fighter patrols totalling approx. 50 CR.42's.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Blenheims were vigorously attacked for 20 minutes but fought off the fighters. (Details). 0900 hours. 8 Blenheims bombed Bardia inflicting heavy damage and starting fresh fires among buildings and store dumps. All aircraft returned. F.A.A.Swordfish bombed Bardia in co-operation with bombardment by TERROR. Wellingtons Blenh ims and further Swordfish later bombed Bardia by night demolishing barracks and warehouses. Large fires and an explosion were also caused. G.H.Q. M.E. report enemy still holding out in Halfaya Sollum and Capuzzo.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1228/15).

BONAVENTURE. Cancel my 2113/15. (Officers and other ranks in BONAVENTURE).
(D.O.D.(F) 1331/15 to C.in C. Med. etc.)

Malta Raids. Combined services report Malta from 1700/14 to 1700/15. All times G.M.T. During night from 0234 to 0027 4 separate enemy aircraft raided Malta height approx. 11,000 feet. 3 sticks fropped in sea off Grand Harbour and 1 S.E. of the Island also in the sea. 1 stick inland near Yuqa aerodrome. 1 Hurricane up but no interception made. Difficulty of interception increased by raiders coming in same time as Wellingtons returning from Naples operation. At 0945 enemy aircraft plotted circling 15 miles South. 6 Hurricanes up but enemy did not cross the coast.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1725/15).

Air Reconnaissance 15/12.
(a) At 1300 a convoy of 5 merchant vessels in position 20 miles north of Crotone proceeding south west along coast.
(b) At 1415 one submarine on the surface in position 20 miles East of Syracuse steering 090 . Aircraft attacked submarine with machine gun fire.
(c) Entering Taranto Harbour, one Littorio class battleship one 8 inch gun cruiser 4 destroyers and 2 large merchant vessels.
(d) Taranto two (?damaged) Cavour class battleships in same position northern one with two destroyers alongside.
In inner harbour one 6 inch ?(gun) cruiser

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

and one destroyer.
(e) Brindisi not visited owing to bad weather. Time zone minus one.
(V.A. Malta 1805/15).

East Indies.

WESTRALIA.	To return to Australia.
SOUTHAMPTON.	To join Mediterranean.
PERTH.	To join Mediterranean.
	(D.O.D.(F) 0120/15 - See Australia.)
"Hunt" Destroyers.	4 to join Red Sea Forces. (D.O.D.(F) 0120/15 - See Australia).
C.M.7.	Convoy C.M.7. arrived. (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 0930Z/15).
W.S.4.B.	My 0808/12 and 1212/12. Sailing of W.S. 4.B. from Durban is delayed 24 hours, SOUTHAMPTON is now to R/V with W.S.4.B. in position 022 20'S., 041 00'E at at 0700Z/18. (C.in C. E.I. 0454Z/15 to SOUTHAMPTON, SHROPSHIRE DEVONSHIRE). SOUTHAMPTON left. (R.O.Zanzibar 1115/15).
B.S.11½.	My 0742/14. owing to W.S.4.B. being delayed one day, B.S.11½ will now sail (date). (C.in C. E.I. 0634Z/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

COLOMBO, CERES.

COLOMBO is to leave Mombasa p.m./16 and proceed to patrol off Kismayu. CERES is to proceed to Mombasa so as to arrive with about 20% fuel. COLOMBO inform CERES of her route so that ships may meet if possible.
(C.in C. E.I. 0630Z/15).

Assab bombed.

Summary No. 186. Following for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 15/12 following night sorties by 8 Squadron attacked supply dept., Assab 1715 1 Blenheim dropped low level stick overshooting target. Building in Barrack area hit and left burning. 2055 1 Blenheim dropped low level stick overshooting to south. Damage improbable. One Blenheim 203 Squadron proceeded Kamaran for convoy duties. All times G.M.T.
(A.H.Q. Aden 1549/15).

Trade Protection.

Your 0830/11. There ~~was~~ are generally some 350 merchant ships on East Indies Stn. spread over say ten main ocean routes. Routes most exposed to raider attack are (a) Cape to Colombo to Achin Head. (b) Australia to or past Colombo (c) Australia to Cape. Route (a) is by far the densest for it often carries some 100 ships and it must therefore have first call on ships available for protection. A modified Convoy system so preposed is obviously not practicable on this route, except possibly very occasionally from Colombo to Achin Head area. More ships would be necessary before I could co-operate with the system on route (b) and (c). On sparse routes such as these I think system (if there are enough suitable escorts to operate it and sailings can be synchronized)has prospect of success but I suggest all ships should keep within visibility distance of escort otherwise some may be sunk without others knowing it. If object of system is to sink raider (as opposed to protecting ships) the escort must be capable of high speed, which A.M.Cs. do not possess. My 1548/12 refers.
(C.in C. E.I. 1750Z/15). (to ACNB)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

"Q" Report.

Following intercepted by Algoa Bay Radio at 1554Z/15. Q Q Q Q 028° 35'S., 039° 08' E being followed. Groups missing. Signal strength weak.
(C.in C. E.I. 2018Z/15).

Cancel my 2018/15 ship was BERWICKSHIRE in touch with CARTHAGE.
(C.in C. E.I. 2230Z/15).

America and West Indies.

ROCKINGHAM
STANLEY.

Sailed for U.K. 1345 G.M.T./14
(N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1210/15).
Route (F.O.3 B.S. 1116/15).

REVENGE
PENNLAND
COLOMBIA.

Intend to comply with F.O. 3 B.S. 1527/14 so far as escort for REVENGE is concerned. Consider 3 destroyers inadequate for PENNLAND and COLOMBIA and intend to attach one or 2 additional.
(C.in C. W.A. to Adty. 1908/15).

PRINCE
ROBERT.

Proceed at 0830/15 inaccordance your 1251/9
(Collao 0835/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Force
K.

Your 1917/24. Request general policy for operation(s) of Force K (corrupt group) (? communicated to) me particulars on following points. (a) confirmation that Force K will act under my orders when operating against raiders within A. and W.I. Station limits, observing a considerable area of raider activity lies within these limits, particularly to N E of Leeward Is. (b) (?will) C.in C. S.A. (? or Adty.) initiate operation in refitting aircraft carriers (? used for operation) (corrupt group) is based Trinidad . (c) Whether it is intended force must always remain concentrated if

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Force K. (Contd.)

presence of pocket battleship is suspected in the area, to have one eight-inch (? cruiser is considered) sufficient support for aircraft carriers.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 2151/14 to Adty).

China.

Free French Movement.

From de Schompre for de Gaulle, reporting 80% of French population of Cochin China sympathetic to Free French movement and making certain suggestions.
(C.in C. China to Adty. 0559Z/15).

OLE JACOB (Captured 10/11) TEDDY (sunk 14/11.)

My 0458Z/14. It is now certain OLE JACOB was in company with raider on 16/11. OLE JACOB encountered raider in position 0060 30' N., 0900 13' E on 10/11. TEDDY encountered raider in position 005 30'N., 0860 30'E on 8/11 was again in company with raider on 13/11 and was sunk 14/11. Positions approx.
(Capt: C.S. Singapore 0301Z/15 to C.in C. E.I.)

Burma Road.

Your tel. of 16/11. Naval officer returning from Chungking reports Burma road in full operation. New diversion road and Mekong Bridge open. Old Bridge slightly damaged but apparently serviceable Salween bridge slightly damaged but open. Diversion road for new ferry above bridge being rapidly constructed. Some small bridges on road bombed but none out of action. Many bridges duplicated.
(C.in C. China, 0307Z/15 to Ambassador, Tokyo).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

Japanese Fleet.

Your 1219/12 W/T and direction finding intelligence during period referred to shows majority of combined fleet units in vicinity of Tokyo Bay. Request original source of your information and whether position at Sasebo is confirmed.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 03562/15 to N.A.Washington).

French General Indo-China.

My 0841/31. Intercepted letter from General Ayme in Djibouti to his wife in Saigon indicated he will relieve General de Rendinger and will travel via Madagascar or via Siberia. He has arranged plain language cable code with wife. Request any further information be signalled to me.
(C.O.I.S.Singapore 04262/15 to S.O.(I)'s Colombo, Capetown etc.)

Australia.

A.C.N.B's 0710/9. In view of increasing raider activities in Australasian Waters, and to provide a relief for GLASGOW damaged in the mediterranean the following redispositions have been approved and are to be put into effect:-

(a) WESTRALIA to return to Australia as soon as possible.

(b) SOUTHAMPTON to join the Mediterranean Fleet on completion of her duties with Convoy W.S.4B, a.m. 1917/24 para. 5(b)(iv), a single cruiser escort being accepted on the Durban- Durban/Aden route.

(c) SYDNEY to return to Australia on relief by SOUTHAMPTON.

(d) PERTH from Red Sea Force to join the Mediterranean Fleet as convenient, a reduction in the scale of surface and A/A protection in Red Sea being accepted. It is intended that four HUNT Class destroyers shall join the Red Sea Force (date).
(D.O.D.(F) 0120/15 to A.C.N.B. C.in C. Med., C.in C. E.I.)

WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.)

A.C.N.B's 0710/9 and a.m. 0120/15).
Need for fast modern minesweepers to work with Mediterranean Fleet is particularly urgent at present, when our opportunities for taking the offensive are increasing. Owing to the large incidence of minesweeper casualties in Home Waters reinforcements from here are not possible. Hoped you will agree to the following allocation of BATHURST minesweepers:-

1st pair to Mediterranean.
2nd pair to remain in Australia.
3rd pair to Mediterranean.
(D.O.D.(F) 0121/15 to A.C.N.B).

FIONA collision.

James Patrick steamer CARDROSS sunk following collision with steamer FIONA 34.07 S., 151.32 E. 1700Z/14. No lives lost. FIONA damaged but making port. (A.C.N.B. 0500Z/15).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

RIO GRANDE
RHEIN
KLAUS SCHOKE
PORTLAND
BRAKE
JOAO PESSOA
MADRID.

My 1927/6. German ships RIO GRANDE, RHEIN, KLAUS SCHOKE all scuttled. PORTLAND arrival Talcahuano from Coquimbo 4/12/-. (? Sailing from) Vigo German tanker BRAKE 10/12 and (JOAO PESSOA 12/12. (? departs) from Las Palmas MADRID 11/12. (C.in C. S.A. 1551/15 to S.A. Sqdn.)

JOAO PESSOA.

Tel. No.83. JOAO PESSOA arrived from Vigo 0300/15 Bilbao.
(Bilbao 1735/15 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

WESTERN PRINCE. (torpedoed 14/12.)

Your 0932/15. Not circulating - requesting report on WESTERN PRINCE) WESTERN PRINCE sank about 0930 yesterday Saturday.
(ACTIVE 1016/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

GWALIA (torpedoed 3/12.)

My 1632/14/12.* Ship was torpedoed at 0530/2 in Convoy O.C.46 and sank in three minutes. Presumed that books went down with her. Information obtained from the four survivors of crew of twenty. My 1211/15/12 gives names of Survivors.

*(Re Swedish ship GWALIA).

ORARI (torpedoed 14/12.)

Have searched along track of ORARI and in the vicinity of Galway Bay without result. Maximum visibility has been one mile. Am standing by to seaward till daylight. Request if possible more recent position of ORARI.
(VANQUISHER 1750/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

DAPHNE. (torpedoed 3/12.)

Swedish, 1513 tons, reported torpedoed 3/12 off S.W. Coast of Spain. 18 of crew of 19 are missing. 1 survivor, picked up by a Spanish ship, states DAPHNE sank in half a minute, no time to launch the boats. (D.S.468).

Submarines Reported. 1639.

1639. 58°-60°N., 25 W, very indefinite. (D.S.468).

1841.

W. or W.N.W. of Ireland, very indefinite. (D.S.468).

0925.

60° to 61°N., 1° to 3° E, indefinite. (D.S. 467).

0450.

14.59'N., 20.6'W, sighted by BRIDGEWATER. (D.S.467).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Submarines Reported.

Search.

Cancel my 2212/14. (Rejoin Convoy (ACTIVE searching for submarine)) (C.in C. W.A. 0008/15 to ACTIVE.

Your 2311. Return to Convoy. (C.in C. W.A. 0036/15 to ANTELOPE).

Weather deteriorating rapidly, conditions very bad for anti-submrine. Request permission to abandon hunt at 0815 today Sunday. (ACTIVE 0242/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

Your 0242 approved. Rejoin Convoy. (C.in C. W.A. 0412/15 to ACTIVE.)

One submarine in sight bearing 270 degs. distant 4 miles course 180 degs. my position 293 15° N., 20° W., 7. (BRIDGEWATER 0412/15 to Freetown W/T).

Submarine on surface at 0450 in position 014 59' North 020 06 West. Made away at high speed course 185 quickly out of sight. Chased 30 minutes then returned to ENGLISH TRADER.
Suggest tug HUDSON sent to position given to enable me maintain efficient screen.
Essential ENGLISH TRADER tow BRIDGEWATER, asdic? is at present negative .
Request instructions.
(BRIDGEWATER, 0530/15).

My 2139/11 and BRIDGEWATER's 0412/15. Following received from BRIDGEWATER, T.O.O. 0530/15. (quoted).
Tug HUDSON joining BRIDGEWATER at best speed Nationality of submarine not known whether French or definitely enemy.
(C.in C. S.A. 1107N/15 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Estimated U/B Dispositions.

Italian. 1 probably about 300 miles West of Madiera.
1 near Azores.
1 arriving Gironde.
1 may still be in Area 53° N., to 54° N., 19° W., to 20° W.
1 more in N.W.Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 was in about 45° N., 9° W., at 1729/14 destination unknown, possibly Azores.

German.
1 was probably in 2° 06'N., 22° W., at 1818/13.
1 was in 14° 59'N., 20° 06'W at 0450/15.
1 bound for Lorient may be about 46° N., 8° W.
1 may be about 48 degs N., 14 degs W. bound for Lorient.
1 has probably left North Cornwall for Lorient.
2 between 55 degs N., and 58 degs N.16 degs W and 21 degs. West.
1 probably North of 58 degs. N. East of 12 degs W.
1 in 59 degs. 48'N., 18 degs 13' West at 2015/14.
1 between 60 degs. N., and 61 degs N 1 deg E. and 3 degs East at 0925/15.
(D.D.I.C. 1251/15 V.A.S. 1426/15).

Submarines Attacked.

1415.

By a/c 37° N., 15.45°E. 090° Syracuse 20' attacked by gunfire.
(D.S.468.)

83

MOST SECRET.

16. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Air Decoys. It has been agreed that where several interests are concerned in Deroy arrangements the primarily interested party should co-ordinate the method of control of the Deroy. Request you prepare scheme of control for Petroleum Board Deroy at Polmont, and consider requirements for control of Dezoys at Letham Moss for Grangemouth, Abercorn for Port Edgar, and Loch Fenz for Rosyth. (D of L.D. 1114/16 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Exercise Area for Portuguese S/M's. A.M.373. A. Para. 2b. Following area has been agreed. (A.C.N.S. F. 1126/16:A.M.611A.)

9th M/L. Flotilla. Ninth M.L. Flotilla consisting of M.Ls. 169, 170, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176 and 178 is to assemble and remain based in Clyde area at Troon. M.L. 169 is to join flotilla on arrival of M.L. 133 at St. Christopher. One division of this flotilla is to be made available for special A/S trials as required by NIMROD. Base maintenance crew 'I' from Portsmouth is to proceed to Troon when trained. Base flotilla stores are to be sent accordingly. Accounts of this Flotilla to be carried in FORTITUDE.(D.T.S.D.1336/16.) for D.T.S.D.

Staff at Seydisfjord. Your 1732/13. As only Icelandic fishing vessels are affected and the amount of store ships using Seydisfjord appears to be small, it is requested you will give further details as to why a N.C.S. Staff is required. In any case the acute shortage of personnel will not permit of a staff of four Officers being appointed to Seydisfjord. (A.C.N.S.T. 2159/16 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

MOST SECRET.

16. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Isle of Man. Your 1007/13. No Naval operational orders in force in Isle of Man except anti invasion arrangements to demolish portion of Queens Pier Ramsey and to immobilise all cranes in Douglas Harbour. No A/P patrols based on the island. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man 1100/16 to Adty.)

DELIOS. At 1130/16. (D.C.1154/16) At 2330/16. D.C. 2350/16.)

Movements.

AMAZON. Your 2130/15 and my 1556/15. Sailed for Escort as in F.O.C.N.P. 1302/14. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0048/16.

RAMILLIES. Cannot make it. E.T.A. 1030/17. Intend pass through following positions. (RAMILLIES 0315/16 to C. in C.W.A.)

RODNEY. Screened by 3 Destroyers to sail for Rosyth at 2200/16. (C. in C. HF.0927/16) My 0917/16. For 2200 read 2359. Speed to be adjusted to pass Oxcars Gate at 1400/17. (C. in C. H.F. 1153/16 to RODNEY

ARGUS. Owing to severe weather have been unable to complete disembarkation of damaged aircraft and other return stores or to embark provisions urgently required. Until this is done and weather moderates it will be impossible to arrange programme for flying on aircraft.(ARGUS 1013/16 to Adty.

CIRCASSIA. Route to Gibraltar.(F.O.C.N.P.1040/16.)

KELLY
WHITSHED. My 1156/14, C. in C.H.F. 1347/15, and A.C. W.A. 1914/15.

F.O.I/C Humber considers that the accoustic mining situation in The Humber Approach Channels renders it inadvisable at present for destroyers to proceed in and out for working up practices if other facilities are available. Propose therefore that KELLY and WHITSHED should proceed to Scapa to work up for 14 days. (C. in C. Nore 1202/16 to A.C.W.A.) Your 1202/16. Agree so far as KELLY is

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.Contd.

concerned. (C. in C.W.A. 1906/16 to C. in C. Nore.) Your 1202/16. Concur (C in C. HF. 2238/16 to C. in C. Nore.)

CATTISTOCK.
HOLDERNESS.
PERWIN.
CLEVELAND.

As RAMILLIES cannot now arrive Plymouth before 1030/17, intend sail Destroyers PM/17 to arrive Neb 0900/18. Regret this will delay C.W.19. (C in C.WA.1312/16 to C. in C. Nore.)

SHELDRAKE.

Sailed 1306. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1312/16.)

Intend to take Fleet to sea when Force K sails in order to take opportunity of exercising with aircraft and to carry out tactical exercises.(C. in C.H.F. 1417/16 to Adty.)

Northern Patrol.

Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (F.O.C.C.S. 1580/16.)

SALOPIAN.

Leave N.P.42 to arrive REYKJAVIK PM/18, leaving AM/19 by following route to Clyde. (F.O.C.N.P. 1546/16.)

WORCESTERSHIRE.

To avoid U-boat alter course as follows (C. in C.W.A. 1612/16 and 1938/16 to WORCESTERSHIRE.)

HOLINTON.
CUORN.

Sailed 1704 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1721/16.)

DIDO.

Your 1414/18. Can now be taken in hand on arrival (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1747/16 to C. in C. H.F.) Proceed at 0300/17 to Tyne. (C. in C. H.F. 2329/16 to DIDO.)

READING.
RAMSEY.

Sailed. E.T.A.Ranse Head 1600/17. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1755/16.)

NAIAD.

With C.S.15, left Scapa 1800. E.T.A. Greenock 1800/17. (F.O.C.C.S. 1810/16.)

KIPLING.

Sailed 2050. E.T.A. Avonmouth 1200/17. C. in C.W.A. 2211/16.)

BONAVENTURE.

Sailed for Clyde. (C. in C. Rosyth 2355/16.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.Contd.

	concerned. (C. in C.W.A. 1906/16 to C. in C. Nore.) Your 1202/16. Concur (C in C. HF. 2238/16 to C. in C. Nore.)
CATTISTOCK. HOLDERNESS. PERNIE. CLEVELAND.	As RANILLIES cannot now arrive Plymouth before 1030/17, intend sail Destroyers PM/17 to arrive Neb 0900/18. Regret this will delay C.W.19. (C in C.WA.1312/16 to C. in C. Nore.)
SHELDRAKE.	Sailed 1306. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1312/16.)
	Intend to take Fleet to sea when Force K sails in order to take opportunity of exercising with aircraft and to carry out tactical exercises.(C. in C.H.F. 1417/16 to Adty.)
Northern Patrol.	Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (F.O.C.O.S. 1520/16.)
SALOPIAN.	Leave N.P.42 to arrive REYKJAVIK PM/18, leaving AM/19 by following route to Clyde. (F.O.C.N.P. 1546/16.)
WORCESTERSHIRE.	To avoid U-boat alter course as follows (C. in C.W.A. 1612/16 and 1938/16 to WORCESTERSHIRE.)
EGLINTON. } GUORN. }	Sailed 1704 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1721/16.)
DIDO.	Your 1414/15. Can now be taken in hand on arrival (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1747/16 to C. in C. H.F.) Proceed at 0300/17 to Tyne. (C. in C. H.F. 2329/16 to DIDO.)
READING. } RAMSEY. }	Sailed. E.T.A.Ranse Head 1600/17. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1755/16.)
NAIAD.	With C.S.15, left Scapa 1800. E.T.A. Greenock 1500/17. (F.O.C.O.S. 1810/16.)
KIPLING.	Sailed 2050. E.T.A. Avonmouth 1200/17. C. in C.W.A. 2211/16.)
BONAVENTURE.	Sailed for Clyde. (C. in C. Rosyth 2355/16.)

MOST SECRET.

16. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation P.V.1. — Will be carried out from 2030 to 2230 tonight to practise A/C and inter-communication. Flares may be dropped or towed between these times. C. in C. Nore 1127/16.

Cancel my 1050/8/12. Following Operation will be known as P.V.1. Details. C. in C. Nore 2000/16.) See Operations volume.

Western Patrol. — MARSDALE, CANITO, DERBYSHIRE to patrol in following areas respectively. (F.O.C.N.P. 1920/16 to Western Patrol.) My 1530/16. Amend areas as follows. (A.C.N.S.T. 2238/15 to F.O.C.N.P.) (F.O.C.N.P. 2346/16 to Western Patrol.)

Operation. P.V.3. — Following operation will be known as P.V Details. (C. in C. Nore 2252/16.) See Operations Volume.

Submarines.

TUNA. — Remains West of 6 W, until she has reported engine defects made good. (S.2.0646/16 to TUNA.)

TRIDENT. — To proceed by route in my 1003/16 to carry out Patrol in Adty's M.022797/40 with amendment No. 1 and addendum No.1. To leave Patrol after dark 6/1. Homeward Route to Wolf Rock.(S.2.1009/16.)

THUNDERBOLT. — To leave Patrol after dark 17/18. (S.2.1156/16.)

SEAWOLF. — S.S's 0940/15. Sailed 1420/16 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1537/16.)

Greenock Area. — Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1541/16.)

UNBEATEN. — Sailed escorted by WHITE BEAR. M.T.A. Barrow 1130/17. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1603/16

Positions. — For following 24 hours at 0800/17. (V.A.S. 1638/16 and 1801/16.)

MOST SECRET.

16. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

C.23. Arrived Dundee. (H.O.1643/16.)

L.23. In Scapa Flow tomorrow (A.C.C.S.1729/16.)

SEVERN. Arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2100/16.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrol. By Blenheim A/C from Dyce to Flamborough and return being flown 0845 to 1215 today (C. in C. Rosyth 0900/16).

Bordeaux. 217 Sqdn to attack S/M's in Basin tonight (H.Q.C.C. 1420/16).

Lorient. 53 and 59 Sqdns to attack S/M's and Dockyard tonight (H.Q.C.C. 1422/16).

TIRPITZ. 22 Sqdn to attack TIRPITZ tonight in Vauhagen at Wilhelmshaven. Alternative Target shipping at Emden (H.Q.C.C. 1424/16).

Enemy Air Activity.

Unknown Ship. AAAA at 0853 (Port Patrick Radio 1004/14)

Unknown Ship in distress about 13 miles N.W. of Mull of Kintyre (Port Patrick Radio 1004/16).

If in vicinity proceed to assist ship bombed in 55° 28'N 6° 2'W. (C. in C. W.A. 1055/16 to ORCHIS, ELLESMERE).

Your 1500 to N.O.I.C. Belfast. Continue search towards 55° 55'N 6° 51'W. (C. in C. W.A. 1804/16 to ELLESMERE).

BIG ISLAND. (British, 3921 Tons) Bombed 300 miles West of Tory Island (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1018/16 to Adty).

Detach one Corvette to assist in about 54° 12'N 17° 45'W separated 1120/16. Corvette to report position of Convoy when well clear of Convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1250/16 and 1400/16 to WHITEHALL).

Corvette has not yet reported. (C. in C. W.A. 0022/17 to WHITEHALL).

GENTIAN was detached at 1402/16. Position of Convoy 53° 42'N. 15° 10'W. (WHITEHALL 0200/17 to C. in C. W.A.).

/Plymouth.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Plymouth. Small raid on Night 15/16. 4 H.E. in Sound, few incendiaries in town. Examination Steamer SIR WALTER RALEIGH slightly damaged by near miss. 1 1 serious casualty, 4 slight. (C. in C. W.A. 1321/16).

UBERITY. (H.M. Drifter). In machine-gun action with A/C at 1150/16 near East Newcombe Buoy. Very slight damage to ship, but 2 dangerously wounded 1 seriously 1 slightly. Ship returned harbour. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1505/16 to Admty).

Dover. At about 2100/15, two Mines from A/C fell between Castle and Fort Burgoyne. Very slight damage and one slight casualty. (V.A. Dover 1525/16).

Mining.

SYLVANA. Request additional seagoing steam driven Dan laying vessel may be allocated to Granton diesel yacht SYLVANNA is only vessel available at present. (C. in C. Rosyth 1145/16 to Admty).

Yarmouth. AMROTH CASTLE reported sighting enemy A/C dropping parachute mine 5 miles N.W. of No. 5 buoy. Area being searched by S.A. and L.L. Trawlers. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1145/16 to C. in C. Nore).

Proposed Minefield Norwegian coast. Evidence enemy traffic along Norwegian coast is increasing in importance. Desired to lay minefield to impede this traffic, between Egersund and Jaederens Point. INTREPID and ICARUS can be made available and sailed to reach Scapa 24/12 with outfits of Mark XVII mines. Early remarks requested. (D.D.O.D.(M) 1331/16 to C. in C.H.F.).

Operation. ZMK 7 To be carried out 17/12 or as soon after as possible, position 51° 04.5'N, 05° 19.5'W., 119° length 7 miles. (D.D.O.D.(M) 1333/16 to C. in C. W.A.).

/Humber.....

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

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/Humber.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (continued).

Humber. — Departures 16/12 TEVIOT BANK, ICARUS in company at 1355 (F.O. Humber 1416/16).

Dover. — Routine sweeps to 0800/16. Found 1 mine and 4 explosive cutters (V.A. Dover 1504/16).

Thames Estuary. — Following explosion in addition to mines exploded by sweepers occured in Thames Estuary during night of 15th/16th /12. Possibly near No. 12. Barrow Buoy resembled mine exploding in mid air except that flash was white instead of the usual orange. There were the usual falling fragments. The mine exploded by the sweepers at 0320 near No. 13 Barrow Buoy appeared to throw up fragments resembling incendiary bombs which continued to burn for about 1/2 a minute. (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1455/16 to C. in C. Nore).

Technical.

Immunity from D/F. — Admiralty's 1219/14. In view of hightly satisfactory results obtained in Netherlands East Indies with regard to immunity from D/F and importance of trials in connection with possible submarine action and other operations S.O.D.S. proposes that wireless Officer on Staff of B.D.Z. makes contact with Admiralty representatives to co-ordinate and arrange trials.
(S.9. 1127/16 to V.A.S.).

Captain (S) 9's 1127/16 with which I concur is passed to you herewith. While it is improbable that sufficient submarines will be available for some time to enable the proposed scheme to be put into operation it is recommended that the wireless officer on the staff of B.D.Z. should discuss details with D.S.O.'s representative.
(V.A.S. 1729/16 to Adty).

Homing of Bombers. — I have been interested to learn of the methods used by long range fighters to "Home" on the ships which they are protecting (A.F.O.'s 437/40) and also of the procedure laid down in A.F.O's 348/40) for our fighters to "Home" direct of enemy shadowers. I understand

/that.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Homing of Bombers. (continued).

that the former system has been used in practice, but that there has as yet been no opportunity for testing the latter system.

2. It would seem a short step to develop the system which I have seen so successfully used by the Italians, and which is also used by the Germans whereby our bombers could "Home" on a reconnaissance machine in touch with an important enemy unit. Would you let me know if such a scheme is in force and whether it has been tried.

3. I would welcome any opportunity to exercise these schemes, and would suggest that the procedure in A.F.O's 348/40, or perhaps that in paragraph (2) above, might be tried on 19th December when a fleet unit will be at sea.

4. If this is agree to in principle a further signal will be made giving details.

(C. in C.H.F. 1436/16 to C. in C. Rosyth)

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

FRAMLINGHAM COURT. (British, 4888 Tons) Ashore off Lismore Lighthouse. Require Tugs (Port Patrick Radio 0105/16).

ETTRICK. (British, 11279 Tons) Dragged anchor at 0100/16 and collided with FRANCONIA and KARANJA. Damage to hull, davits, and motor-launch. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 0730/16 to D.S.T) Propellor may be damaged. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 1818/16).

KARANJA (British 9891 Tons) Lost one anchor by collision with ETTRICK at 0100/16. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 0730/16 and 1818/16).

FRANCONIA (British 20,175 Tons) Details of damage by collision with ETTRICK at 0100/16 (P.S.T.O. Clyde 1818/16).

BRANLEBAS. lost. F.S. BRANLEBAS sailed Dartmouth with westbound convoy at 1800/13 with orders to return to Dartmouth by 1000/15. She has not been heard of since and has not answered W/T signals. Aircraft is being sent to search. (C. in C. W.A. 0818/16).

My 0818/16 not to all addresses. Enquiries of ships in convoy which BRANLEBAS was ordered to escort and which have now arrived in harbour have failed to throw any light on the fate of BRANLEBAS. Aircraft search has proved fruitless. It is therefore regretted that she must now be considered as lost and that the loss is most probably due to heavy weather. (C. in C. W.A. 2055/16 to Adty).

EDOUARD VAN VLANDEREN. (A/S Trawler) Arrived with engine defects. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1030/16).

FURIOUS. Condition of engines and boilers renders possibility of serious break-down ever present consideration. Port Outer H.P. has stripped further blades since leaving U.K. on 16th November but not at present vibrating. Many boiler tubes now almost thickness of paper and unlikely to sustain effects of heavy concussion without bursting with dangerous consequences to boiler room personnel. Above does not indicate that ship is unfit to sail "MONSOON" but is intended as warning that possible reduction of speed to eighteen knots or below must constantly be borne in mind. (FURIOUS 1203/14 to Admty).

/DORANDO.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

DORANDO.
PIETRE.

(N.C.S. Motor Drifter) While lying alongside S.S. RAMON DE LARRINAGA at 1500/15 sustained damage to stern. No damage to other vessel. N.C.S. Vessel SEAWORTHY but marking water in heavy weather. Request A.S. Rosyth may arrange survey.
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1237/16 to Adty).

SKEENA.

Details of defects. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1316/16 to Adty). Consider ship unable to steam more than 10 knots (Capt. D. Greenock 1816/16 to Adty).

EMPIRE ELK.

ENGLISHMAN assisting SUPERMAN to tow (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1330/16).

SHIKARI.

Am returning Londonderry with serious defects in lubricating system. (SHIKARI 1744/16 to C. in C. W.A.).

KRONPRINSESSEN.
(Swedish. 3746 Tons)
SERINGA.
(British 4729 Tons)

Swedish KRONPRINSESSEN and British ship SERINGA in collision Belfast Lough about 1400 today. Former holed amidships but no immediate danger. Latter bows damaged but expected dock here tonight. No casualties amongst crews reported.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1830/16 to Adty).

My 1830/16 and 1130/17 Swedish KRONPRINSESSAN MARGARETA docked safely 1600 today.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1800/17 to Adty).

GOLIATH.
(Rescue Tug)

Immobile with boiler defects until P.M. 18th. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2331/16 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Estimated positions 0900/16. (D.T.D. 1135/16 to C.in C. H.F.)

F.S.62. Postponed 24 hours, weather. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1157/16).

F.S.61. 66 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0948/16).

F.N. F.N.Convoys will in future leave Southend at 0830. (C.in C. Rosyth 0939/16)

H.X.94. Route. (D.T.D. 1024/16) Meet 17 ships. (C.in C. W.A. 1116/16 to SIAIKARI, SKATE, SCIMITAR, ARABIS, MALLOW). List and distributions. (C.in C. W.A. 1516/16).

W.N.54. List. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1057/16).

B.H.X.98. List. (Navy Control, Bermuda, 1201/16).

B.H.X.97. Left. Ocean escort COMORIN, returning Halifax. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 1203/16).

W.N.55.)
W.N.56.) Retard sailing 25 hours, weather. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1221/16).

E.N.42. Amending his 1650/15. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1223/16).

E.N.42.)
E.N.43.) Each postponed 24 hours due to W.N.55 and 56 postponements. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1225/16)

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

H.X.93. Situation at noon. ACTIVE, ANTELOPE with top mast carried away and LADY MADELINE with 6 ships 57.54 N., 11.11 W. HEATHER with 11 ships believed to be 20 miles to N.W. and is being searched for by ACHATES. NORWICH CITY standing by 1 ship with damaged steering gear, position unknown. PICOTEE and remainder of convoy position unknown. Weather. (ACTIVE, 1230/16).

H.X.95. Time of arrival at R/V to be delayed 24 hours to 0900 G.M.T./23. (D.T.D. to AUSONIA 1351/16).

H.X.96. Route. Escort RANPURA, returns to Halifax. (D.T.D. 1353/16, to C.in C. W.A.)

H.X.97. Route. C.O.A.C. Halifax requested to signal route west of 35° W and time of sailing direct to WORCESTERSHIRE. (D.T.D. 1356/16).

O.B.260. Sailed 1310/16, 14 ships. (N.C.S.O.Liverpool 1423/16). List and destinations. (1424/16).

S.L.57S. 10 ships unescorted. Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1446/16, 2033/16 to AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, HEARTSEASE, CROCUS).

F.S.61. List. H.M.T's STELLA, LEONIS and KINGSTON OLIVINE. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1602/16).

S.C.16. My 1114/15. ROYAL SOVEREIGN sailed p.m./16 to contact S.C.16. Route. (R.A.3.B.S. 2047/16).

S.L.58. Route. (D.T.D. 2059/16 to KENT.)

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

S.L.57. ORARI has arrived Clyde proceed to join convoy S.L.57.
(C.in C. W.A. 0726/16 to VANQUISHER).

W.N.53. Scapa departures 1000 FLEETWOOD and ALYNBANK to escort convoy W.N.53.
(A.C.O.S. 1035/16).

S.C.15. Your 1848/12. S.C.15 not met. My p.c.s. at 1300/16 G.M.T. 053° N., 035° W., 087° S.
(CILICIA, 1310/16 to Adty).

S.C.15. Your 1310/16 to Adty. Commodore S.C.15 has been instructed by W/T to pass through R/V in Adty's 1840/12 at time and date stated.
(C.in C. W.A. 1954/16 to CILICIA).

S.L.59. Departure 1400/16/12 H.M.S. CATHAY to join and act as ocean escort to S.L.59 and thence to Greenock in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1231/14/12.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1601/16).

F.N.60. Great Yarmouth 16/12 Departure H.M.Y TARANSAY at 1630 to join F.N.60.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1637/16).

C.E.19. My 2156/15 and C.in C. W.A. 1312/16. Owing to non arrival of escorts C.E.19 postponed 24 hours.
(C.in C. Nore, 1656/16).

F.N.61. Intend sailing FITZROY tomorrow Tuesday to join F.N.61 thence to Grimsby.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1708/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

CLAN MURRAY.

Remain with CLAN MURRAY until she rejoins convoy. If not under way by 1900 report situation stating whether tug is required.
(F.O.Harwich 1810/16 to SHELDRAKE)

S.L.57.

Inward escort S.L.57 S, AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, HEARTSEASE, CROCUS, LILIAN. AMBUSCADE is Senior Officer.
(Capt: D. Greenock 1825/16).

W.N.56.

Sailed CAVOTTE and PIROUETTE for W.N.56. E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0800/17.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 2329/16).

O.G.Convoys. Dispersal Point.

Several ships have recently been torpedoed in positions which indicate that they have left O.G.Convoys further North than is desirable and have proceeded thence direct towards destinations in Portugal and on the west coast of Spain. The attention of Commodores and Masters is to be called to Admiralty Message 1746/3/8 and they are to be informed of the sinkings referred to above.
(D.T.D. 2352/16).

W.S.5.A.

Your 2250/6. (para.8.) and my 1753/11 Intend to sail NAIAD for Clyde p.m./16 if a second cruiser is not required for this operation intend that NAIAD should be taken in hand as early as practicable for outstanding defects.
(C.in C. H.F. 1448/16, to Adty).

Sail at 1800/16 and proceed to Avonmouth Escort RANGITIKI thence to R/V with convoy W.S.5.A. slow (position) at 1700/18. KIPLING thence proceed to Liverpool to fuel and await orders. If RANGITIKI cannot make R/V in position (A) KIPLING is to escort her to R/V with W.S.5.A. slow in position (B) at 0930/19. KIPLING then proceed to Lough Foyle to fuel and await orders.
(C.in C. W.A. 1500/16 to KIPLING).

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

OREGON.

Your 1724/9 and N.A. Madrid 1245/14. OREGON should be diverted in accordance my 1225/11 for repatriation of Vichy element.
(Hd. of M., 1125/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CAPITAINE ST. MARTIN.

Arrival 14/12. French steamer CAPITAINE SAINT MARTIN from Casablanca.
(Consul, Las Palmas, 1900/15 recd. 1345/16)

Admiral D'Harcourt.

Following received Consul General Tangier (begins) While speaking to (? Elias) Consul Casablanca Admiral D'Harcourt (Casablanca) stated he was not anti British but like Weygand pro French. He further said French Authorities had been greatly annoyed by British action recently taken to stop French Cruiser PRIMAUGUET. There was also considerable resentment because certain trawlers from Saint Pierre had been taken to Gibraltar. No T.R.R. 15/12 (ends). This further confirms attitude of Admiral D'Harcourt as described in N.A.Lisbon's despatch to D.N.I. 19/11.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1706/16 to Adty).

North Atlantic.

Azores Submarine Patrol.

TRIDENT estimated in vicinity Lands End at 0100 G.M.T. 19/12 proceeds (route) to relieve CACHALOT on patrol in accordance with Admiralty letter M.022797/40 of 30/11.
(S.2. 1003/16 to CACHALOT, TRIDENT).

Azores. Oiling of Destroyers.

Consider it impracticable to oil destroyer off Azores in winter months.
(ASPHODEL 1121/16 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ASPHODEL and CALENDULA proceeded from Ponta Delgada 1930 G.M.T. 16/12. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1840/16).

A.M.C. for Azores.

My 2146/30/10 para.5, my 0210/15, and F.O.C.N.A. 1218/16. Western Patrol. After CIRCASSIA leaves patrol in Area G.3. on 17/12 it will be unnecessary to maintain an A.M.C. patrol in the vicinity of the Azores. A.M.Cs. returning to Western Patrol could therefore be employed on the more direct trade routes. It is requested that an anti-clockwise patrol should be established by MARSDALE in Area P.3., Q.3., and R.3, and a clockwise patrol by CAMITO in Areas Q.1., R.1., and S.1. (D. O.D. (F) 1538/16 to F.O.C.N.P.)

BERWICK Azores.

Request you will sail BERWICK as soon as practicable tomorrow 17/12 for Azores patrol issuing orders for her patrol and information as to submarine patrol. (D.O.D.(F) 2215/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

DERBYSHIRE.

Intend to sail DERBYSHIRE for Patrol F.2. at 1800 today. (F.O.C.N.A. 1218/16 to V.A.N.P.)

RESOLUTION VINDICTIVE.

Gibraltar arrival 16/12 1100 RESOLUTION VINDICTIVE, FORTUNE, FOXHOUND. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1232/16).

German A/C. Palma.

At least 12 German Heinkel bombers passed over here today at 1330 proceeding in South East direction. (Palma 1550/16).

Malaga Recon. by A/C.

Daily Summary Operations. One London airborne 0100 G.M.T. to carry out recco. in vicinity of Malaga. Information was received to effect that Italian warship would be loading three tons of silver at Malaga night of 15/16th. Pilot saw alongside pilot vessel off Malaga large swirl as of submarine. Did not bomb as swirl in territorial waters.

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Malaga Reconn. by A/C. (Contd.)

Aircraft remained in vicinity until 0630 G.M.T. Nothing further seen.
(200 Group 1710/16 to Air Ministry).

Malaga Reconn. VELOX.

Following received from Consul Malaga at 2355/15 "some 300 tons silver will be transhipped tonight Sunday from pilot boat to Italian warship off Malaga". VELOX and aircraft were sent to investigate forthwith. H.M. Ship sent ordered patrol of (? 15) Alboran bombing aircraft till noon December 17th. VELOX returned to Straits patrol at 0900/16 nothing to report. Aircraft reported at 0300/16 sighted motor boat in position 209 Malaga six, also considerable swirl in water as if submarine had just dived. Motor boat having tried to shine a light on aircraft made off in direction of Malaga. Aircraft at 1630/16 also reported having seen another destroyer in addition to VELOX in vicinity. This vessel had all lights burning and is considered to be probably Spanish as a Spanish minelayer of JUPITER Class passed through Straits westbound from that direction at 1040/16. Consul Malaga is being asked elaboration.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1720/16 to Adty).

Tangier Garrison. (B.2.)

One Battalion of Spanish infantry arrived here yesterday another arrive today and a third is reported to be arriving tomorrow, to replace Moorish troops who have been transferred from Tangier to Larache and Melusa. Estimated that this garrison will be between three and four thousand strong, representing a slight reduction. Spanish not Moorish troops are to be used.
(Consul Gen., Tangier, T.H.I. 1840/16).

Enemy Convoy. Bordeaux. Lisbon.

Reliably reported Germans are organising in Bordeaux a large convoy which will proceed strongly escorted to Lisbon. Convoy will travel by day only presumably to keep within territorial waters without risk of going ashore. Full report by bag.
(Consul.Gen. Lisbon, 1927/16 to M.E.W. repeated Adty).

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

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MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ESPERANCE BAY. Arrived 0930/16. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1103N/16

Tanker. Your 1434/14 (tanker sighted by SUTLES) suggest vessel may have been EUROFELD, sailed Las Palmas 3/9 and not since located (D.D.I.C. 1115/16 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

American Neutrality Zone. Until further notice no neutral ship to be stopped within American neutrality zone except on receipt of definite orders. This includes all French ships. (R.A.S.A.D. 1134/16 to S.A.D.S.A.Station)

NATIA Wreckage. (British 8715 tons). OCNA (Norwegian) reports having stopped at 006° 49'N., 052° 38'W on 5/12 to examine ships life boat with NATIA, Southampton on stern. Boa was waterlogged. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1150/16).

ENTERPRISE. Departure Plate 16/12 ENTERPRISE for Simonstown due 27/12. (R.A.S.A.D. 1234/Z/16 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

St. Vincent. Sal. Your 1759/14 and Adty. 1953/15. Summary of information received since September (details) . Doubtful report that Italian air services are maintained with Brazil via Sal every fortnight. (C.in C. S.A. 1815/16 to Adty).

BULOLO. Sailed for Freetown with following on board for W.Africa. (Military details) (W.O. to G.O.C., W.A. 1540/16).

KELSWICK PARK. Due Freetown 12/12 (from Milford Haven 22/11) has not arrived (S.O.(I) Freetown 0948/16).

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

FURIOUS Hurricanes.

For your information. 27 of the Hurricanes transported by FURIOUS on last trip were in action by December 12th. (D.N.A.D. 1825/16 to FURIOUS).

Enemy Intelligence.

For Spears Mission. Following received from French Mission, Accra. Usual reliable source reports Army details. Navy. Richelieu 2 cruisers 3 destroyers 4 submarines seen Dakar 6/12. Air. Number of planes A.O.F. approx. 200. Sunken aeroplane storage tanks constructed Thmatferd, cylinders Kaolack Dakar General. 20 Officers and N.C.O's attempted to desert to Gambia 3/12 but prevented by road block. Arrested and taken to Dakar. As consequence military and naval patrolling increased. Reliably informed Cayla replaced by Anet.
(20 M.M. Brazzaville 1430/16 to W.O.)

Polish Volunteers.

General Ismay for Spears Mission, London, re 28 Poles 10 of which are Jews not renewing their contracts and wishing to join Polish Army or Palestine Legion, request instructions.
(20 M.M. Duala 1725/16 to W.A.)

East Indies.

SHROPSHIRE, DEVONSHIRE, W.3.4.B.

SHROPSHIRE and DEVONSHIRE escorting convoy W.S.4.B. sailed E.T.A. position W. (date) E.T. A. Suez (date).
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0703/16 to P.S.T.O. Suez).

ANTENOR.

To leave Colombo 0400Z/17 and proceed to 005° N., 092° E and then patrol between that position and 002° N., 080° E.
(C.in C. E.I. 0710Z/16 to ANTENOR)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.12.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Wreckage.

Three lifeboats marked "Mugomedom" and 1 tin of Cow and Gate food found in 7° 23.5'N., 09° 47.5 E on 10/12.
(C.in C. E.I. 1010Z/16).

CORNWALL.

To leave Aden 19/13 and proceed to Simonstown.
(C.in C. E.I. 1228Z/16 to S.N.O. Red Sea).

Q Distress Signal.

Following from SHILLONG begins, my position 002 35'N., 075 25'E. Following Q distress signal received 1520 G.M.T. position 000 02'S., Strength of signal 2 647 broke off no further information received. T.O.O. 1715/16 G.M.T. ends.
(C.in C. E.I. 1856Z/16 to E.I.Sqdn.)

My 1856/16. Following dispositions are being made.
(a) HOBART in approx. position 007° 20'N., 074° 45' at 2000/16 towards position 000° 070' with despatch.
(b) CAPETOWN in approx. position 004° 45' N., 064° 25' at 2015/16 towards position 000° 067' at 18 knots.
(c) RANCHI arrives Mahe Seychelles to refuel within the next 12 hours and then proceeding eastwards along trade route at 17 knots.
(d) WESTRALIA will R/V with Oiler APPLELEAF in position 002° 15'N., 075° 45' at 0330/18 and escort her to Addu Atoll Maldive Islands arriving about 0630/19 December.
(e) Oiler APPLELEAF leaving Colombo at 2330/16 for R/V.
(ii) All times are G.M.T.
(iii) H.M. Ships in para. 1 are to decode signal addressed Force V.
(C.in C. E.I. 2313/16).

Cables.

Middle East combined Signal Board letter CRME/944/17/10 of 5/12/40. Observations. Not considered proposal to appoint a Commander for the control of cables only is justified.
(C.in C. E.I. to C.in C. Med. et., 1114/Z/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

CORNWALLIS.
INVESTIGATOR,
FALMOUTH,
SEABELLE,
PARVATI,
RATNAGIRI.

F.O.C.R.I.N. 0429/11 and S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1520/14. (1) Concur change over of CORNWALLIS and INVESTIGATOR as proposed by F.O.C.R.I.N. S.N.O. Persian Gulf is requested to sail CORNWALLIS accordingly. (2) As FALMOUTH's A/S spares are now at Bombay, intend FALMOUTH to dock and repair before SEABELLE docks. In order that strength of Persian Gulf Division shall not fail below these ships intend PARVATI ro RATNAGIRI, whichever ready for service first to proceed to Persian Gulf temporarily until relieved by INVESTIGATOR (date). (3) S.N.O. Persian Gulf requested to sail FALMOUTH for Bombay on arrival in Gulf of PARVATI or RATNAGIRI (date). SEABELLE to proceed to Bombay on return of FALMOUTH.
(C.in C. E.I. 0608Z/16 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

MANTAI MARU.

S.O.(I) Bombay 0604/22/11 to Arfar regarding Cargo from German ship RHEINLAND shipped in Japanese ship MANTAI MARU to Basrah for Aleppo. MANTAI MARU passed Singapore 14/12 for Basrah. (2) Reference para. 2 (c) of a.m.2100/13/11 should vessel be sent in to British port in view of enemy origin of cargo (3) Cargo reported to consist of earthenware and cotton goods.
(C.in C. E.I. 1052Z/16 to Adty).

CRICKET
APPLELEAF
PARRAMATTA.

CRICKET escorted by Oiler APPLELEAF will sail from Colombo at 1130Z/17 for Cochin where CRICKET will refuel from APPLELEAF. The two ships will then proceed to Bombay. PARRAMATTA will escort CRICKET to Aden via Masirah where PARRAMATTA will supply fuel and water to CRICKET. Estimated requirements. S.N.O. Red Sea requested state if delay in arrival of PARRAMATTA at Aden can be accepted. No other ship available for escort of CRICKET as APPLELEAF required for another operation.
(C.in C. E.I. 1148Z/16 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

MOST SECRET.

16.12.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Port Facilities, Aden.

Request N.O.I.C. Rangoon will report dimensions and weights of craft referred to by C.in C. E.I. in his 0718/12 bearing in mind that they would presumably require to be shipped to Aden in ships able to lift them with their own gear.
(D. of S.T. 1931/16 to C.in C. E.I.)

Boom D.V's.

Admty. 1838/2 and my 0646/5. Owing to repairs to B.D.V. BARNET and difficulties regarding crew for B.D.V. BARRETTE sailing of these vessels have been delayed.
(C.in C. E.I. 1152Z/16 to C.in C. Med. etc.)

China.

Free French Singapore.

From De Schompre for General De Gaulle. Begins Number thirty organisation of my office at Singapore completed (details) Possible further increase due to expansion of propaganda activities in liaison with Far Eastern Bureau of British Ministry of Information. Ends.
(C.in C. China 0945Z/16 to Adty).

Air Mission to Chinese Government.

Consideration given to despatch of air mission to Chinese Government. We cannot spare personnel for mission nor aircraft for Chinese. On the other hand we are prepared to accept your recommendation in the F.E.61 12/12 provided you or India can find suitable officer.
(Air Min. 1730/16 to C.in C. Far East).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Reference.

Reply from Cs-in-C. to Chief of Staffs No. 31. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 0033/16) See Mediterranean Vol.

M.W. 5A.

Convoy M.W. 5A. Following British ships, LANARKSHIRE and WAIWERA sailed 2100 B/16 due seaward end of Malta Channel (b) 1800/19. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 2206/16).

Operation M.C.2.

Fuelling programme. (C.in C. Med., 1121/16).

Spain.

Bi-Weekly Report. German troop movements Bordeaux-Hendaye. Spanish actions in Tangier. (Madrid, 2015/16).

U.S.7.

Convoy U.S. 7 arrived Suez p.m./14. (S.B.N.O. Suez, 1008/16).

Attacks on Bardia, Tobruk, etc.

Operational Summary No. 189, up to 1200/16.
Egypt. My A.364 15/12.
Para. 2. 11 Wellingtons dropped over 26000 lbs of bombs on Bardia night 14/15 Dec. starting very large oil fire near Stores Buildings which was visibile at distance of 60 miles. Night 14/15 Dec. 12 Blenheims operating independently bombed landing grounds at Bomba, Gazala, El Gubbi, Tobruk, El Adem, Gambut and Menastir and Sollum Barracks. Day 15/12. 7 Blenheims operating independently attacked landing grounds at Appollonia Bomba, Tmimi, Gazalla and El Adem. 4 Blenheims with Fighter escort attached Tobruk, bombs falling beyond target to fault in release gear caused by frost. Hurricanes made offensive patrols westward to Tobruk. Hurricanes and Gladiators with F.A.A. Gladiators patrolled over our advanced forces. Night 15/16/12. 36 aircraft including Bombays Blenheims, Wellingtons and F.A.A. aircraft maintained sustained attacks on Bardia throughout night to force enemy to evacuate the town. Direct hits by Wellingtons on Barracks and Stores at started large fires visible at distance of 60 miles. G.H.Q. M.E. report Halfaya evacuated by enemy 15/12, Sollum and Capuzzo still occupied. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1242/15).

/ Malta Air Report .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Report.

To 1700/16. All times G.M.T. 0736/16. Sunderland reconnaissance western portion Ionian Sea for enemy naval units. Nil report. Air operations planned for tonight cancelled due to weather conditions. No enemy air activity over Malta. No naval or military items.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/16).

Sollum and Capuzzo captured.

We have captured Sollum and Port Capuzzo. T.O.O. 2001/16. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 2010/16).

Enemy Intelligence.

Roumanian Military Attache (most reliable) tells me that German Assistant Military Attache visited him two successive days saying he had received two urgent telegrams from his Military Attache in Berlin, asking for following information:
1. From which air bases in Greece are British Air Force operating.
2. Have British troops disembarked Greece, if so at what port.
Roumanian M.A. truthfully replied he did not know.
(M.A. Ankara, No T.O.O./16 to Brit. M.M., Athens).

Leros Raid 26/11.

Report from Turkish secret source; damage in Leros Air Raid 22/11. (query 26/11)
Naval base store burnt with contents. Military club and ordnance offices completely destroyed by two bombs. Air Force W/T destroyed. Coast defence guns damaged. Italians claim seven of our aircraft brought down; source states correct one only; Pilot wounded but Italians killed him.
(Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1748/16).
Note. by N.I.D.
This refers to attack by 15 Swordfish from ILLUSTRIOUS on 26/11. Little information has been received previously concerning the damage caused.

Dodecanese.

Your 2814/13, (Islands for Turkey) confirmed name of islands mentioned in my 1651/11 were Rhodes and Kos. Athens and Ankara being informed.
(C.in C. Med., 2011/16 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

REVENGE.
T.C.8.

Your 2240/6 REVENGE and T.C. 8 sailed 1300/16 G.M.T. routed through (particulars) expect to reach position (a) (particulars) 22/12 (R.A.3.B. S 1001/16 to Admty). Departures 16/12 ASSINIBOINE, RESTIGOUCHE local escort REVENGE ocean escort T.C.8. (S.O(I) Halifax 1235/16 to Admty).

RIPLEY.
ROXBOROUGH.

Sailed for U.K. 1530/16 G.M.T. Routed as in E. 926/31 from R.A.3. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1259/16 to R.A.3 for Capt (D).

HERCOGS JAGABS.

Your 1633/14. If Latvian HERCOGS JAGABS sails she is not to be interfered with (Hd of M. 2351/16 to C. in C. A. & W.I.).

ST. CROIX.

Sailed for Halifax 1600/16 G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. ST John's N.F. 1503/16).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Departure 16/12 cover for HX and SC convoys (S.O. (I) Halifax 2005/16 to Admty).

DESPATCH.

Left Bermuda accordance my 2232/13 E.T.A. Kingston 0700R/20. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1503/16).

LEOPOLDVILLE.

Admty. 1823/12. Will LEOPOLDVILLE be available to take 200 troops on return voyage to U.K. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1601/16).

Neutral Ships.
American Zone.

Until further notice no neutral ship is to be stopped within American Neutral zone except upon express orders from the Admiralty or C. in C.A.W.I. Neutral for this purpose includes French Ships and my 1251/23/11 is modified accordingly. Limits of neutral zone as affecting America and West Indies Station were defined by declaration of Panama 1939. Commanding Officers must not be influenced by these limits when investigating ship's flying neutral colours who are suspected of being disguised enemy ships. (C. in C.A.W.I. 2202/16).

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

BATHURST.
Minesweepers.

Your 0121/15. Arrangements will be made accordingly (A.C.N.B. 05152/16 to Admty).

New Zealand.

Troop
Transport.

D.S.T's 1458/15. Re use of EMPRESS OF RUSSIA in same convoy as QUEEN MARY. Reluctant (unless necessary) to take AWATEA off Vancouver run. Capacity of AWATEA. Dates of embarkation and sailing. (N.Z.N.B. to A.C.N.B., 1019/16).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

SPEZIA — Arrival 14/12. (Valencia 0115/16)

ATLAS — Departure 13/12 for Marseilles. (Valencia, 0115/16).

MARIA LOUISA — (Bulgarian ship) loading with tobacco 14/12 for Germany via Roumania. Sailing date not yet known. (Consul, Samsun, 1130/16).

ARKADIA, LARISSA — Left in ballast for Russia. (Galatz, 1142/16)

TISZA — Passed down river for Istanbul. (Galatz, 1142/16)

BADEN — Left Teneriffe 0400/16. (Consul, Teneriffe, 1225/16)

RIO GRANDE, IDARWALD — Your 1561/16. Should RIO GRANDE read IDARWALD? (D.D.I.C. to C.in C. S.A., 1302/16).

ANNELIESE BASBERGER. — My 0754/10. Cancel reference to ANNELIESE BASBERGEN (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1033/16). Reported sale to Japanese.

SPICA. — Now discharging her cargo of pyrites at Ayamonte, where she has been since October, 1939. (D.S. 468).

TINOS. — Discharging a quantity of manganese ore temporarily at Valencia before docking. (D.S. 468).

BELLONA — Arrived 14/12. (Valencia 2035/16).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CONTE DI SAVOIA, SATURNIA, OCEANIA, NEPTUNIA, VULCANIA — S. report states recently lying at Trieste in the Ports Duca d'Aosta close to the shipbuilding yard (D.S. 468).

CELENO — Arrived from Batoum, cargo of 8,000 tons gas oil. (Varna, 1030/16).

MAURO CROCE — Left for Genoa 13/12. (Barcelona, 1249/16).

DERNA. — Left for Genoa 14/12. (Barcelona 1249/16).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CHARI
(torpedoed 13/12) Has arrived Clyde. Proceed to Belfast. (C.in C. W.A. 0723/16 to ELLESMERE and STELLA POLARIS).

MACDONIER
(torpedoed 12/12) Belgian, 3227 tons. In Convoy H.X.92, sunk by torpedo 1 mile W. of St. Kilda 57.52 N., 8.42 W. at 0130/12. Eight officers and 29 men landed at Fleetwood, 4 of crew missing (D.S. 468/16/12).

VICTORIA CITY)
D'ARLON)
(torpedoed 2/12) In Convoy H.X.90, torpedoed on 2/12, are now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 468/16/12).

TOWA
(torpedoed 11/12) Dutch, in Convoy H.X.92, torpedoed 11/12, is now presumed to have sunk. Master and 18 survivors have been landed. (D.S. 468/16/12).

BENTON PIKE
(escaped 13/12) See S/M's attached.

ROTORUA
(sunk 11/12) Sinking of ROTORUA (HX 92) by U-boat at 1315/11 in position 58° 56'N. 11° 08' W. Senior officer of escort (VETERAN) states ROTORUA (Commodore) was 125 miles ahead of expected position but local escort were not aware of this until ship was torpedoed. Signalmen Ex ROTORUA state all W/T messages from Commodore were passed by lamp to CARDITA for transmission by short wave. A.M./10 signal made giving R/V's for local escort at 0400 and 0845 on 11/12.
0830/11 signal made giving Commodore's position course and speed. Neither of these signals ever reached local escort.
Naval Control, Greenock, asked to investigate this matter with Master of CARDITA. Also allegation that plain language signal was made on same wave at about 0830/11.
Further evidence of survivors gives following description of attack. (Abridged).
1315/11 ships in company (list). ROTORUA torpedoed starboard side and sank in 20 minutes. Signals made indicating side of attack and ordering convoy to scatter. 5 minutes after attack U-boat surfaced on port quarter among boats and her C.O. took cinematograph of sinking ship whilst others made off. After 10 minutes U-boat dived. 10 minutes later surfaced again and CARDITA opened fire and claimed one direct hit producing oil and smoke. No further attack on convoy. (Details of survivors' rescue) (Capt. D., Liverpool, 1806/16).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported.

1345. 54.53 N., 06.54 W. (C.in C. W.A., 1712/16).

0752. Bergen area, position indefinite (D.S. 468).

0349. About 60° N., 20° W., position indefinite (D.S. 468).

1850. 59.50 N., 2.50 E., approx. position (D.S. 469).

1223. D.F., probable U/B 57.40 N. to 58.20 N., 16° - 17° W. (D.D.I.C. 1312/16).

1223. 58.20 N., 17° W. approx position (D.S. 469).

1547. 59°N., 22 - 23° W., indefinite position (D.S. 469).

1516)
1020) 54.30 N., to 56° N., 16° - 19° W., indefinite positions of 3 Italian U/B's.
1750) (D.S. 469).

1620. 48.40 N., 12.20 W., approx. position of Italian U/B (D.S. 469).

0121. Westward of Brest, indefinite position of German U/B (D.S. 469).

Dutch intelligence Curacao reports first officer F.H. BEDFORD J.H. sighted conning tower of submarine in position 21 miles 030 degrees from Aruba at 1730/11. Other members of crew saw wake. Not reported to N.C.S.O. S.N.O. Curacao grades C.3. Ship sailed Aruba 12/12 for New York.
(S.O.I. Kingston 1000/16 to C.in C. A. and W.I.).

Submarines Reported.

TARTAR pass to SEVERN. Following received from Larne examination steamer. S/M periscope also top part of conning tower roughly two cables Eastwards Hunter Rock Buoy appeared bound to S.E. time of origin 1345/16, (ends) BRITISH HONDURAS from Larne and 4 A/S trawlers from Belfast investigating.
(C.in C. W.A., 1529/16 to TARTAR).

/ Estimated U-boat dispositions..

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.

Submarines Reported.
Italian.
1 about 300 miles W. or W.N.W. of Madeira.
1 Near Azores.
2 in N.W. Approaches one of which may be about 54° N. 20° W.
1 may be about 42° N. 18° W. bound for Azores.
German.
1 was about 650 miles S.W. of Freetown on 13th. No further report.
1 possibly Italian S.W. of Dakar.
1 may arrive Lorient to-day.
1 may be about 47° 40'N, 8° W. bound for Lorient.
1 North of 55° N. east of 12° W.
1 about 58° 30' N. 17° W.
1 north of 58° N. and west of 22° W.
1 about 60° N. 20° W.
1 entering Bergen.
(D.D.I.S. 1313/16).

Submarines Attacked.

1825/14. My 1111/15. At 1825/14 HYPERION with HEREWARD in company obtained contact in position 052° 03' N. 025° 56' E. and attacked firing one pattern. Shortly afterwards U-Boat surfaced. Both ships opened fire and U-Boat surrendered. U-Boat sank before boats reached her. (C.in C. Med., 1721/16 to Admty.)

By NEWTON PINE 2230/13. Position 2200 G.M.T./13, 8.16 N., 15.25 W. Torpedo attack avoided, followed up by a severe engagement with gunfire. Anticipate submarine damaged after 30 minutes action. No casualties, ship is not damaged. (NEWTON PINE, via Freetown W/T 2230/16 to C.in C. S.A.) Further report see 18/12.

(84)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Methil. Your 1007/13. Following is List of Standing Operational Orders now in force in Methil Sub-Command.(N.O.I.C. Methil 1141/17 to Adty.)

Iceland. Adty. 2189/16. As it is understood that timely arrival of Fish Cargo in U.K. is desirable, intend to continue routeing as in last paragraph of my 1732/13. (F.O. Iceland 1221/17 to Adty.)

A.M.C's. The following steps to increase maximum Gun-Range and improve Fire-Control of A.M.C.'s are now in hand.(D.T.S.D.1840/17.)

Western Approaches. My 2010/1 had a torpedo bomber Striking Force been at my disposal, an excellent opportunity would have occurred this afternoon of attacking a convoy off Ile Vierge reported by Pru aircraft on return from reconnaissance.
(C. in C. W.A. 1854/17 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/17. (D.C.1154/17.) At 2330/17. (D.C. 2344/17.)

Gosport. Net Layers MINSTER and TONBRIDGE will carry out experimental lay PM/20.
(B.D.O. Gosport 1637/17 to D.B.D.)

Dungeness. A/A.Battery. Your 1220/15. Request assurance that Guns will remain at my disposal for a definite period.(H.O.F.O.R.S. 1133/17 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

RODNEY. TSCAUADK. ELECTRA, ECLIPSE.	Sailed Scapa 2359/16. (A.C.O.S.0251/17.)
DIDO.	Sailed Scapa 0334 (A.C.O.S.0336/17.) Arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1657/17.)
Nore Command. Ships out of Action.	C. in C. Nore 0746/17 to Adty.)
WITHERINGTON WITCH.	Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0900/17.)
BONAVENTURE.	Weather permitting is to arrive Greenock by 1000/18 and will be required to embark Personnel mentioned in A.M. 2112/13. (C.S.15. 0944/17.) Sailed Rosyth 2230/16. E.T.A. Greenock 0500/18. (C.in C. Rosyth 2236/16.)
CURACOA.	Arrived Scapa 092/3. (A.C.O.S. 1030/17.)
RAMILLIES. FERNIE, CATTISTOCK. HOLDERNESS, CLEVELAND.	Arrived Plymouth. (C. in C.W.A. 1138/17.) Destroyers sailed 1709/17 for Patrol to Portsmouth. E.T.A. Nab. 0900/18.(C.in C.WA. 1755/17) Please route Destroyers as follows.(C. in C. Portsmouth 1503/17 to C. in C.W.A.)
Force K.	S.O. Force K in FORMIDABLE, with NORFOLK and 4 Destroyers, to sail from Scapa at 1700/18 to R/V. with Convoy W.S.S.A. in 54°10' N. 25°W at about 1100/22, whence Destroyers part company and return to Scapa. Route. (C. in C.NF.1159/17.)
RODNEY.	Arrived 1430 from Scapa.(C. in C. Rosyth 1436/17.)
NAIAD.	Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1459/17.)
Northern Patrol.	Trawler Line tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1540/17.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

WILD SWAN. VANGUARD. Entered, fuelled, and sailed. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1801/17.)

PEGASUS. Would berth be available for PEGASUS on return from operation SPECIMEN until she sails to repeat Operation. (D.O.D.H.1811/17 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

Troop Embarkation. Arrived Greenock GLENGYLE, GLENROY, ROYAL SCOTSMAN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0946/17.)

P.V.3. Will be carried out tonight, starting at 2030. Trucks in 40 Q75, 15 miles either side of Smiths Knoll Light Float. (C. in C. Nore 1027/17.) My 1027. Operation P.V.3. cancelled. C. in C. Nore 1901/17.)

M.T.B.sweep of Dutch. and Belgian Coasts. Weather permitting M.T.B.'s are to operate tonight Tuesday between Ostend and Hook of Holland. If conditions are considered suitable Flushing Roads should be visited. Any vessel met East of 2°15' East may be attacked without challenge. Report time of sailing.(C. in C. Nore 1048/17 to F.O. Harwich.) Sailed M.T.B.'s 29,31,32 at 2001. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2006/17.)

Submarines.

TRIDENT. Sailed escorted by CUTTY SARK as by S.2. 1206/15. F.O.I.C. Greenock 0958/17.)

UNBEATEN. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1205/17.)

L.23. In Scapa Flow tomorrow (A.C.O.S. 1626/17.)

Greenock Area. Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1650/17.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/18. (VAS. 1700/17.)

RUBIS. E.T.A. Q.Z.S.162. 0913/18. (RUBIS 1915/17 to N.O.I.C. Dundee.)
(ADVENTURE 1957/17.)
Operation complete (ADVENTURE, 2315/17.)

MOST SECRET.

17. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Patrol by Blenheim from Dyce to Flamborough and return being flown 0845 to 1215 today.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0818/17.)
Being flown today. CENTO in lieu of MUDGY, STAB, BERT, SA.2, and S.A.3. (C.in C. Rosyth 0820/17.)

A/C. Homing Trials. Your 1436/16. The procedure outlined in para. 2 has not been standardised, but has been practised in low visibility. It has been estimated that aircraft can home on to one another at the maximum range of 20 miles.

2. 18 Group have agreed to carry out trials in accordance with para. 2 of your signal.

3. Two Hudsons will be available PM/19.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1113/17 to C. in C.H.F.)

Lorient, Wilhelmshaven. TIRPITZ. Repeat tonight operations detailed for 53,99,22, and 812 Sqdns., on Night 16/17. (H.Q.C.C. 1245/17 to 16 Group Thorney Island, North Coates.)

Bordeaux. 217 Squadron to repeat tonight attack on U-Boats at Bordeaux.(H.Q.C.C. 1247/17 to 15 Group, St.Eval.)

Enemy Air Activity.

MENTOR. (Greek, 3050 Tons.) Attacked by A/C. in 52° 51' N 14° 17' W. (MENTOR 1035/17.)

SANDA. (British, 1028 Tons.) Arrived Belfast 1800/16. Reports bombed and machine-gunned in 55° 28' N 6° 2' W. at 0945/16 B.S.T. by one A/C.
Six near misses, slight damage, no casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1300/17.)

Mining.

Thames and Medway. Closed owing to mines. (Cmdre. in Charge, Sheerness, 1001/17.)

E.N.E.7. Intend leave Milford Haven 1800/17 for operation E.N.E.7, to lay at IX 2145 returning on completion about 2400.

War Diary.

17. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMAND.

Stadlandet.

Mining. Contd.
Your 2249/14 para.1 (B). Between 1/12 and 3/12. SUNFISH extensively covered area (details) off Stadlandet. During patrol nothing seen or took place to indicate presence of enemy mines. Before another S/M patrols anxious to know (1) is minefield referred to a German field or the British declared area, (2) if German can it be established whether these mines were laid before or after SUNFISH's first attack on 5/12.
(V.A.B. 1136/17 to Admty.)

C.M. Field.

Hope to complete relaying of C.M. Field on 19/12. The two mine loops are laid. Both tested and worked well.(C.C.C.M.Party RINGDOVE, 1403/17.)

Nore.

1 red mine detonated 0945/17 by L.L. Tage 102° No. 1. Yantlet Buoy 3 cables near inside. Very heavy explosion under electrode of short leg.
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1414/17.)

Southend.
AQUITY.
HELVEDERE.
INVER.
MALRIX.
INSUFFICIENT.

M/V. AQUITY.(Br.370 tons.) sunk at Southend 17/12. Casualties 3 dead 1 injured. S.S.HELVEDERE (Br. 869 tons) sunk at Southend 17/12. S.S.INVER (Br. 1543 tons.) sunk at Southend 17/12. Seriously injured 1. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1641/17 to Admty.) S.S. MALRIX (Br. 703 tons.) sunk at Southend 17/12, 6 missing, believed dead, 4 injured. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 2251/17.

CARRY ON sunk.

(B.D. Drifter) Mined by enemy action 17/12. 7 crew (including Skipper) missing presumed killed (Comdre. I.C. Sheerness,1718/17.)

Plymouth.

Since my 1705/8/12 one red mine detonated 210° 8½ cables Breakwater Light at 1450.(C. in C. W.A. 1515/17).

THOMAS COPOLLI.

(Boom Working Trawler) Mined 0940/17 half mile east of No. 3 Bury charted position.
(Comdre I.C. Sheerness 2150/17.)

Proposed minefield. Norwegian Coast.

Your 1331/16. Concur. Additional proposals.
(C. in C. H.F. 2329/17.to Admty.)

Tyne.

Following received from LEGION begins:- Have exploded acoustic mine at 2 cables, my position 054° 57' 22" N, 001° 09' 36" W speed 30 knots. T.O.O. 1045/17 ends.(C. in C. Rosyth 2359/17 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War DIARY.

17. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Themes Estuary.

Following mines detonated by D.A. gear 17/12. By SUNLIGHT at 1325 320° No. 3 Medway Channel buoy 1/2 mile bearing Green 30° 50 yards. Detonation was followed immediately by explosion in approximate position 285° Nore L V 7 cables. By DELPHINUS at 1350 175° No. 1 Yantlet buoy one cable bearing ahead 3 cables and at 1403 184° No. 1.Yantlet buoy 1/2 cable bearing green 90° 1/2 cables. At 1218 two mines were observed by DELPHINUS to explode when gear not operating 000° No. 1 Yantlet buoy 6 cables.
(Capt. M/S. 1714/17 to C. in C. Nore.)

Harwich.

Paddlesweepers East of Longsand Head searched 75% of area extending for 7 cables S.E. of line joining 51° 50° 7 01° 44.6' and 51° 45.1' 01° 40' 2 mines destroyed. One detonated in 51° 49.1' 01° 44.5'. One German 'W' Type mine dragged in sweep, sunk, by rifle fire. Russian type sinker recovered.(F.O.I.C. Harwich,1825/17.)

Yarmouth.

Skid Drifters 17/12 using North Polarity detonated mine in 050° 8½ cables from North Pier, entrance to Yarmouth Haven. Mine was seen to drop by parachute on morning of 14/12.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1950/17 to C. in C. Nore.)

English Channel.

Dangerous area due to mines exists north five miles of position 50 degs. 31' 30" North and 001 degs. 32' 00" West.(V.A.S/Ms 2016/17 to PROTEUS).

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Weser.

At 0440/16 in 53° 40' N. 6° 20' E. A/C saw 3 large and 2 small ships apparently proceeding to Bremen. (H.Q.B.C. 1804/17 to Air Ministry.)

Heligoland Bight.

At 0452/16 in 53° 55' N. 8° E. A/C saw 3 large and 3 small stationary ships showing no lights.
(H.Q.B.C. 1804/17 to Air Ministry.)

Off Yarmouth.

Suspected E-Boat near 52° 36' N. 2° 15'E. at 2135.
(C. in C. Nore 2157/17 to LOWESTOFT.)

Western Channel Approach.

A/C. reports Searchlight flashed at 1912 in 49° 9' N. 5° 30' W. Investigate.(C. in C.W.A. 2233/17 to PENNIE) (V.A.S. 0026/18 to PROTEUS.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

ACHERON sunk.

Regret to report that ACHERON has been sunk following an explosion while carrying out high speed turning trials at 0640 today in approximate position 165°. Needles 8½ miles. Cause at present unknown.
Some Survivors have been picked up.
Further report follows.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1053/17 to Admty.)

NORWICH CITY.

(A/S. Trawler). Tug SCHELDE proceeding to your assistance. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1607/17 to NORWICH CITY) Was in 250° Dubh Artach 5 miles at 1730 today. LADY MADELEINE standing by. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2015/17 to SCHELDE.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Estimated positions 0900/17. (D.T.D., 1158/17 to C.in C. H.F.).

F.N. 61.

Left Southend with H.M.T. SAPPHIRE 27 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 0045/17, 1107/17).

H.X.97.

Admty. 1356/16. Sailing 1700 G.M.T./18. Route. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1004/17 to WORCESTERSHIRE).

H.N. 55.

Arrived 1000/17. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1007/17).

S.C.17.

Prospective date of sailing. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1150/17).

O.B.O. 260.

Sailed 0600/17, 7 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1215/17).

O.B. 263.

Route. (D.T.D. 1228/17).

H.G. 48.

Route. (D.T.D. 1229/17).

O.B. 259.

Route to avoid U/B. (C.in C. W.A. 1302/17 to SHIKARI, SCIMITAR, SKATE, ARABIS, MALLOW).

H.X.94.

List of ships not in company. (RAJPUTANA, 1653/17 to C.in C. W.A.)

F.N. 63.

Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Rosyth 1729/17).

S.C.16.

Date and route. ROYAL SOVEREIGN to cover to 30° W., return to Halifax. (D.T.D., 1847/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

S.L.59.

Date and route. Escort CATHAY. (D.T.D. 1856/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

S.L.S. 59.

Date and route. (D.T.D. 1857/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

O.B. 263.

Date and route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1900/17).

F.N. 60.

Humber 17/12 departure H.M. Tug RESTIVE at 0300, to join F.N.60 Methil for onward routeing to Campbeltown. (F.O. Humber, 0944/17).

2 M.V's.

Your 1031/16 and 1806/16. Arrival 2 M/V's escorted by RUBY and PEARL. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1203/17 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

6 M.V's.

Intend to sail Group of 6 M/Vs escorted by PEARL and RUBY from Needles 1715 today for Dartmouth. 0815/18. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1243/17).

My 1243/17 sailed 1730 less one M/V. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1847/17).

/O.B.262 ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.12.1940. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

O.B. 262. 1100 on 20/12. (Route). (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1253/17).

F.N. 61. Great Yarmouth 17/12 Departure H.M.Y. TARANSAY at 1335 to join F.N.61 at Sheringham Light Buoy at 0630/18. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1430/17).

H.X.93. Am not in touch with HEATHER. Request she be instructed to rendezvous with H.X.93 who should enter by North Channel about 1630 today as she will be required to escort Liverpool section. (ACTIVE 1045/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

H.X.93. Rendezvous with H.X.93 expected to enter north Channel at 1630 today Tuesday you will be required to escort Liverpool Section. (C.in C. W.A. 1514/17 to HEATHER).

H.X.93. R/V for H.M.S. ROSEMARY with H.X.93 B. 0700/18 in 053° 46' N. 005° 08' W. (C.in C. W.A., 1532/17 to N.O.I.C. Holyhead).

RICHMOND CASTLE. RICHMOND CASTLE sailing 0200/18 for Cape Town. Speed of advance 15 knots. (Route).

O.B. 259. Lost contact with O.B. 259 position, intend return Londonderry. (NORTHERN DAWN, 1645/17).

H.X.94. Following ships are not in company with H.X.94:- WINDFLOWER, PENDEEN SIRE WORMSDRECHT last seen after convoy hove to in latitude 055 degs. 40' Longitude. AGRA, TRILLIUM, LA PAMPA, OAKMAN. (RAJPUTANA 1653/17 to C.in C.W.A.) .

W.N. 54. 1243, CURACOA sailed to cover Convoy W.N.54. (A.C.O.S. 1701/17).

SATURNUS By 1654/18 (Re Swedish Ship SATURNUS) Immediate action and reply is requested. (N.A. Stockholm 1747/17 to Admty.)

6 M.V's. Intend sailing at 1645/18 6 M/V's including two large tankers for Hartland Gap. Falmouth state they cannot take one of the tankers which is Diesel driven. Request necessary escort may be arranged. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1913/17 to C.in C.W.A.)

6 M.V's. Intend sailing at 1730/18 6 M/Vs all loaded. Expected time of arrival Needles 0845/19. Request escort. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1913/17).

W.N. 54. Scapa arrival 2150 CURACOA from convoy W.N.54. (A.C.O.S. 2158/17).

/ F.N. 42. ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

E.N. 42. 2200/17 R.M.T's STELLA CAPELLA, HORNPIPE. Additional escorts LONDONDERRY, TIRACEL, ALYNBANK. 7 ships. 1 for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2230/17).

W.N. 54. Following received at Aberdeen W/T from HUGH WALPOLE:- W.N.54 passing Rattray Head. (S.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2020/17).

C.W. 20. Provided escorts arrive Sheerness in time, intend to sail CW 20 from Southend at 1000/21. Timetable.
M.L's detailed are to be towed between Sheerness and North Goodwin, and whilst in tow engines and dynamos are not to be used. Number of M/V's in convoy 15. (C.in C. Nore 2112/17).

F.N. 62. F.N. 62 cancelled.
VANITY and WESTMINSTER are to proceed to Rosyth independently at 0830/8. Speed not to exceed 12 knots unless attacked by aircraft until after passing Chiywash Light Vessel, thence with moderate despatch. Fighter protection will be asked for. (C.in C. Nore 2130/17).

C.in C. Nore's 2130/17.
F.N.62 will commence from 62 D buoy. VANITY and WESTMINSTER are to arrive there at 1900/18 ships from Humber to be sailed accordingly. 20 buoy 0800/19 and 20 A buoy 0800/19 for ships from Tees and Tyne.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2302/17).

Troop Convoys.

T.C.S.
W.S.5 B. T.C.S. comprising CAPETOWN CASTLE, PASTEUR and PENNLAND with 1500, 3100 and 2800 Canadian troops respectively are due to arrive Clyde (date). Vessels are then to be prepared for W.S.5.B.
(D. of S.T. 0155/17 to F.S.T.O. Clyde D.S.T.O., Glasgow).

W.S. 5A. A.T. 1823/14 and A.T. 2150/14 Cancel R/V (Y).
Route for W.S.5 A from R/V (X) is as follows;
thence to outer end of swept channel into Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 0218/17 to C.in C. W.A. H.F., F.O. Force K.)

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

W.S. 5A.

My 1711/13 amend as follows:-
W.S.5A fast, sails from Bar Light Vessel 1700/19.
R.V. Clyde Ships. Additional secret positions.
(N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 0049/17).

Escorts.

Intend sailing Liverpool Section W.S.5A slow group at 1800/18 speed of advance 10½ knots escorted by WELLINGTON, WITHERINGTON, WITCH, CLEMATIS, JONQUIL, CYCLAMEN, GERANIUM, RANGATIKI from Avonmouth rendezvous in position 53° 38' N. 5° 48' W. at 1700/18. Liverpool Section rendezvous with Clyde Section, CAIRO escort and Belfast Section and escort in position 180 degrees Oversay 5 miles at 0030/19. Route thence in accordance with Admiralty's 1703/12 and 0218/17. CLEMATIS JONQUIL CYCLAMEN and GERANIUM to be detached as necessary to fuel at Ponta del Gada, Azores, thence to Sierra Leone.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1030/17 to Admty.)

Admiralty 2250/6. Convoy W.S.5A Slow. A/S escort (A) Liverpool portion. WITHERINGTON, WITCH, CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN, GERANIUM, JONQUIL
(B) Belfast portion. VENOMOUS.
(C) Clyde portion. BATH, ST MARYS, ST ALBANS, WORCESTER, WATCHMAN.
Senior Officer of A/S escort BATH.
A/A escort. HALAD or (repeat) or BONAVENTURE from Clyde. WELLINGTON from Liverpool. CAIRO will not sail with convoy. (C.in C. W.A., 1152/17).

W.S.5A.

Reference Western Approaches convoy instructions A 6 diagram (xii) ships will be in following position when you join convoy.
(WELLINGTON 1914/17 to BATH).

Intend sailing Liverpool Section W.S.5A (fast) 1700/19 speed of advance 14½ knots with FURIOUS escorted by KELVIN, BEVERLEY and KIPLING to rendezvous with Clyde Section at 0900/20 in position 56° 03' N. 7 degrees 30' W. HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER will rendezvous from Lough Foyle. Convoy thence in accordance with Admiralty's 1703/12 2150/14 and 0218/17.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2210/17).

LEOPOLDVILLE.

Speed 15 knots, carrying 1500 R.A.F. Naval and Canadian personnel, will be ready to sail from Clyde on 18/12. She will be sailed with Convoy W.S.5(A) remaining in company with them to R/V (X) in 25°W and thence proceeding independently to Halifax.
(D.O.D.(H) 1110/17 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1940.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

COMMANDANT DELAGE.

French Sloop M/S, passed Gibraltar West to East 1030/17 escorting PALLAS. Returned East to West escorting KAKAULIMA, IINFRA and BOPEAS at 1400 (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1435/17).

French Shipping, Dakar.

Following received from Navy Department, from Dakar, regular steamship service has been established between Marseilles and Dakar. If ships continue freely from (? Port) this service will be extended to Ivory Coast. It is expected also that a regular passenger service to South America will be established soon.
(N.A. Washington 1033/17 to Admty).

French Crews.

Your 1338/16. All Seamen ex VICTORIA embarked in FRANCONIA vide my ?1824/7 and are now in U.K. CHARLES PLUMIER can not be sailed until further crew is found vide my 1724/9 (refusal of French crew to navigate ship to U.K.) since numbers of Free French and D.B.S. available here are not sufficient.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1802/17 to Admty).

French Admiral Mediterranean.

Your 1045/11. Owing to recent change of appointment I now have no contact with new French N.A. who has not called on me. It is confirmed, however, from Syria reliable source that Admiral Laborde is in command of French Mediterranean Fleet and is being retained although due to retire on November 29th.
(N.A. Washington 1235/17 to Admty).

CUBA.

My 1157/27/11, 1901/15 and your 1338/16. Following personnel now remain in CUBA Naval Officers and ratings, 321, ships Officers and crew 201. Request information whether further arrangements for repatriation can be expected in the near future either by Spanish or Portuguese ships.
(C. in C. S.A. 2043/17 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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No. FOREIGN STATIONS.

Azores, Force H.

Return with your Force to Gibraltar at best convenient speed. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to recall ORANGELEAF. (D.O.D.(F), 0125/17 to F.O. Force H, F.O.C.N.A).

RENOWN, ARK ROYAL escorted by 6 destroyers left patrol off Azores a.m. 17/12 for Gibraltar. BERWICK sailed 1100/17 to patrol off Azores, route. (F.O.C.N.A. 1132/17 to CANTON, DERBYSHIRE, VELOX).

Force H. now returning to Gibraltar (V.A.S. 1551/17 to TRIDENT).

ORANGELEAF.

Position, course and speed 1200/7 (details) to Gibraltar routed through (details) (F.O.C.N.A. 0430/17 to S.O. Force H.).

Estimated position course and speed ORANGELEAF 1200/18 (details) Part company with DERBYSHIRE as requisite to R.V. with ORANGELEAF during daylight 18/12 and escort her to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1130/17 to VELOX).

BERWICK.

Gibraltar departure 1030/17 in accordance with Admty 22 15/16 Route (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 1142/17 to Admty).

TRIDENT. CACHALOT

TRIDENT leaves near Lands End 0100/19 G.M.T. to relieve CACHALOT routed (details). BERWICK leaves Gibraltar 17/12 for Azores patrol. My 1410/15 this force now returning Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.P. 1630/17).

Destroyers fuelling.

Request signal your view on possibility of obtaining lee for fuelling destroyers in conditions experienced by recent Azores patrols (D.O.D. (F) 1619/17 to F.O. Force H).

/S.M. Patrol.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (continued).

Submarine Patrol.	Your 1026/14 UPHOLDER, USK UNIQUE should be ordered to leave patrol and continue passage to Gibraltar after dark. 18/12 (D.O.D. (H) 2320/17 to V.A.S).
Tanker.	Your 1115/16 (tanker sighted by SUTLEJ) Submit German EUROPELD has not got a cruiser stern according to Lloyds and from a photograph, due to dark backgroun type of stern is difficult to distinguis (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 0944/17 to Admty).
WISHART.	Gibraltar arrival 1210/17. (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 1328/17).
Daily summary operations.	2 routine A/S patrols (200 Group 1630/17).
Malaga Incident	My 1720/16 Transhipment of silver to Italian warships. Spanish minelayer JUPITER left Malaga during the night in question. (F.O.C.N.A. 1012/17 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

Foreign Legion Movement.	Reply to T.2. cipher 13/12 War Office 0745/17 to No. 20 Military Mission Brazzaville).
	My 2051/14 and my 1126/16 Request early confirmation that arrangements will be made to send French Legion to Freetown in TOUAREG and CAPO OLMO by (date) for transhipment and onward journey. Request you will explain to Free French authorities that NEURALIA will sail in convoy and only means of joining this is by transferring at Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1753 N/17 to N.C.S.O. Duala).
ELSWICK PARK.	My 0948/16. ELSWICK PARK arrived 17/12 (S.O.I. Freetown, 1038/17).

/Minesweepers.....

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued).

Minesweepers.

Minesweeper group 142 consisting of SOTRA, SARNA, SOIKA SVANA left Simonstown 0900/17 for Durban. E.t.a. 0400/22. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 09032/17 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

NEPTUNE.

Arrivals 0800/17 NEPTUNE, flying flag of F.O.C. Force M. (S.O. (I) Freetown 1025N/17 to Admty).

DELHI.
MILFORD.

Lagos arrival 16/12 DELHI: Departure MILFORD for Freetown. (S.O. (I) Freetown 1047N/17).

NEWTON PINE.
(British 4212 tons)

Following received from NEWTON PINE begins. Position at 2200/13 G.M.T. 008° 16'N 015° 25'W torpedo attack avoided followed up by severe engegement gunfire anticipate submarine damaged after 30 minutes action. No casualties ship not damaged or splintered 2230/16 ends. (C. in C.S.A. 1226/17 to S.A. Stn. Sqdn).

A/S Vessels

My 1800/13 S.D.F. A/S vessels sailed from Durban 15/12. Date due Alexandria (S.N.O. Simonstown 1545B/17 to Admty).

NORSEMAN.

NORSEMAN leaving 000° 22'S 47° 36'W for 3° 13'S 38° 58'W. (N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1610/17 to Admty).

Suspicious Ship.

Your 1434/14 addressed S.O. (I) Gibraltar, Lloyds state no CAMPSA tanker was near position on that date and that they have no knowledge of any recent transfer of oilers to Spanish flag. (D.D.I.C. 1818/17 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

CATHAY.
S.L. 59

CATHAY after refitting from 16/9 arrived Freetown 1300/15, 7 hours after convoy S.L 59 had left. Completion delayed, and further delay caused by diversion on passage and bad weather. Ship left 16/12 and will join convoy when 3 days on passage on 18/12. Evaporating arrangements unsatisfactory. Deck of dynamo room above No. 1 block tank is leaking. Also reports ballasting non complete and stability is affected. Request ship be reballasted with rock ballast as necessary and modification to evaporation plant carried out on Arrival. Vessel is required as early as possible. (C. in C. S.A. 1359/17 to Admt:

MOST SECRET.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation M.C. 3.

Now decided that Convoy M.C. 1 is to be run to Gibraltar and that MALAYA is to accompany it to join Force H. Operation M.C.2 as amended by my 1315/15 (1407/15?) will be adhered to (exceptions). Orders for escorts. Force A (MALAYA etc). Force D (WARSPITE's screen), and M.E. 5A Convoy (C. in C. Med 1155/17, 1217/17).

OTUS
ORIKIS.

Orders for petrol, leaving Alexandria 0900/19 (Capt S.1. 0957/17).

TAUANT.
TRITON.

Routes for (V.A. Malta, 1059/17).

R.M. Group.

My 1645/13. Until R.M. Group is required for a special operation under your orders, suggest it should be deployed for service in Middle East as decided between yourself and C. in C. M.E. (D. of L.D. to C. in C. Med. 1640/17) See Med. Vol.

A.S.10.

A.S.10. arrived Piraeus 16/12 (Athens 1901/17).

Suda Bay.

Arrivals and departures (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1435/17).

ABINGDON
TAUANT.

ABINGDON returning due to weather. Remaining to North West of line 230° from end of searched channel. TAUANT expects to enter sanctuary in position 035° 34'N 014° 10'E about 0200/18 (V.A. Malta 1131/17 amended 1837/17).

Durazzo bombed.

Greece. Day 15/12. A reconnaissance of Durazzo and San Giovani Di Medua reported 11 ships between 12, 000 and 15,000 tons in Durazzo 2 small cargo boats in San Giovani Di Medua. Night 15/16th. 2 Wellingtons bombed Durazzo Harbour stating one large fire. Large explosions also caused in docks.

/Egypt.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Tobruk etc. bombed.

Egypt. Night of 15/16th. 7 Blenheims bombed Tobruk the bombs falling among buildings in north east corner of landing ground. 16/12 Blenheims bombed Derna Bomba Gazala Tobruk El Gubbi El Adem and a number of enemy satellite landing grounds. Reconnaissance made of Benghazi Derna Bomba Tobruk and Maddelena - Berdia areas. 5 ships 400 feet long and several smaller ships in Benghazi. No offshore shipping. Night 16/17 11 Wellingtons attacked Berdia bombs falling on buildings north and east of harbour stating large fire near W/T station.

Sollum and Capuzzo occupied.

G.H.Q. M.E. report Sidi Omar Sollum and Capuzzo occupied by our troops 16/12. 10 Cr. 42's captured intact at Sollum and Capuzzo.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1241/17).

Aerodromes.

X. 742 17/12. Your O/877 13/12 Under certain circumstances aerodromes in Mores may be necessary. Will you include in your reconnaissance Argos Kalamata and any other likely areas as well as those at Araxos.
(Air Ministry 1603/17 to H.Q. R.A.F.M.E.

Air Report. Malta.

To 1700/17. All times G.M.T. 0854 enemy aircraft approached from the north and after circling for 15 minutes about 15 miles from East Coast turned away without approaching the Island. 6 Hurricanes up no intercepting. 0911 - 1156 Sunderland 228 Squadron reconnaissance Western Ionian Sea for enemy Naval and Merchant ships. Nil report. 0707 - 1200 Glen Martin 431 Flight Photographic Reconnaissance Naples and Messina. Naples - 1 cruiser in dock between jetties western side of harbour. Approximately 11 M/V's averaging 5,000 tons in harbour 4 M/V's entering without escort Messina - 1 cruiser anchored in harbour. 2 submarines alongside western part of harbour. 2 M/V's in harbour and 1 M/V entering harbour. 0746 - 0937 Glen Martin. Reconnaissance Tarento returned owing bad weather - nil report.

/B.B.C.....

MOST SECRET.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

F.A.A. Raids.

Intend issuing following Communique, F.A.A. Aircraft attacked Rhodes (Rodi), Stampalia and Scarpanto, on morning of 17/12 Weather conditions made observation of result difficult but some fires were seen to have been started. All of our aircraft returned.
(C.in C. Med. 1208/17).

My 1407/15. Five aircraft attacked Stampalia result difficult to observe owing to cloud but fires started. Owing to bad weather only one aircraft reached Rhodes Aerodrome which was bombed from low altitude. One aircraft bombed Scarpanto. Pamplets were also dropped on the target. All aircraft returned.
(C.in C. Med., 1205/17 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (continued).

Air Report Malta. (contd). B.B.C. announcement yesterday 16/12 that raid on Malta of 14/12 caused no damage creates undesirable impression locally that facts are being suppressed damage was reported in my 1.160 14/12. No Naval or Military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/17).

Valona. Following is repeated for information. Military Attache Athens from Military Attache Belgrade. 14/12 Yugo Slav Government have information that Italians are organising a heavily defended bridgehead round Valona, whether to cover disembarkation reinforcements or evacuation they do not know. (1. S.L. 1918/17 to C. in C. Med).

M.C. 2. Operation M.C. 2 GRIFFIN sailed for rendezvous 1300 zone - two. (V. A. Malta 2223/17 to C. in C. Med).

Operation Orders. Your 1950/17 to C. in C. (Originated by War Reg. notifying C. in C. Mediterranean parts 1, 2, 3 and 4 of signal 1315/15, also signal 1121/16, not received. Signal 1121/16 and part 5 of 1315/15 now received and circulated separately). C. in C.s. 1315/15 and 1121/16 are amendment to operation orders not held by you neither of these signals was addressed to you (R.A.L. 2246/17 to Admty).

East Indies.

B.N. 12. Convoy B.N. 12 leaves Bombay (date) R.V. with Force Q. Red Sea R.V. (position and date) (F.O.C. R.I.N. 04382/17 to C. in C.E.L. CALEDON, etc).

CRICKET. Movements in my 1148/16 postponed further signal will be made. (C. in C. E.I. 05042/17 to F.O.C. R.I.N.).

Air Report. Ops. Summary 190 to 1200/17. No naval items (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1242/17).

/Mombasa.....

MOST SECRET.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Mombasa.

H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. Ops. Summary No. 190 to 1200/17. para.4 Kenya 14, 15 and 16/12. S.A.A.F. made 3 patrols Mombasa reconnoitred Gaddana and El Wak areas and made one reconnaissance south of Zanzibar to investigate warship reported by coast observers. Warship identified as British. 3 Transports and 1 cruiser escorted in Mombasa. Bombs dropped by reconnaissance aircraft on El Wak.
(H.W. R.A.F. M.E. 1243/17).

HOBART.
CAPETOWN.

My 2312/16 HOBART now proceeding 20 knots to conserve fuel and will arrive 000° 070° E., about 0015Z/18 CAPETOWN will arrive 000° 067° E., about 2000Z/17. (C.in C. E.I. 0514Z/17 to Force V).
My 2312/16 if no further information of raider is received HOBART and CAPETOWN to reduce to economical speed on arrival respective positions on Equator and then proceed as follows, HOBART give cover to shipping E. of 068° E., adjusting movements to arrive Addu Atoll for fuel about 0530Z/19. CAPETOWN search around 000° 10'S., 065° 50'E which is estimated position CITY OF CAIRO at 1520Z/16. Give cover to shipping East of 065° E., and adjust movements to arrive Addu about 0530X/20. Should opportunity arise of concerted action against raider HOBART at once take CAPETOWN under his orders. Keep good look out for wreckage.
(C.in C. E.I. 1244Z/17 to Force V.)

ANTENOR.

My 2312/16 (disposition of ships) ANTENOR to form part force V ANTENOR left Colombo at 0400Z/17 for 002° 10'N., 081° and then proceed to 005° N., 092° .
(C.in C. E.I. 0518Z/17 to E.I. Sqdn.)

Colombo departure 0410Z/17 ANTENOR.
(S.O.(I) Colombo 0520Z/17 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

DAUNTLESS. My 0518/17 DAUNTLESS to form part of Force V. DAUNTLESS in approx. 0060 N., 0900 at 0900Z/17 is establishing a patrol to westward of Achin Head.
(C.in C. E.I. 0948/17 to E.I.Sqdn.)

At 1630Z/17. DAUNTLESS then in about 0060 N., 0920 E., to proceed towards Dondra Head at 15 knots for 24 hours, giving cover to SOMALI and other shipping. Then to proceed towards Achin Head at 12 knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 1354Z/17 to Force V.)

YARRA. Departure YARRA 2005Z/17 for W.S. 4.A.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1025Z/17 to Adty).

Troop Transport. Your 0430/14 in addition to two ships mentioned in my 1234/11 three more suitable ships could be made available by replacing them by four British India Ships. These would have requisitioned and fitted out and would not be entirely suitable for British Troops.
(S.S.T.O. Bombay 1315/17 to D. of S.T.)

CARLISLE. INDUS. Arrival 0500Z/17 CARLISLE departure 0855Z/17 INDUS for B.S.10½ and W.S.4A.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 0917/17 to Adty).

PERTH KINGSTON B.S.10½. Arrived 1300Z/17 PERTH 1400Z/17 KINGSTON and Aden ships from B.S.10½.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1405Z/17).

Convoy B.N.11. Departures 2300Z/17 CALEDON, AUCKLAND, FLAMINGO, SHOREHAM with convoy B.N.11.
(N.O.I.C. 2312/17 to Red Sea Force).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Assab Attacks.

Summary No. 188 for 24 hours ending 1500/17. Following 28 Squadron night sorties attacked Assab. At 2015 1 Blenheim to piers numbers 1 and 2 medium Level Salvoes fell in each target area. 1330 1 Blenheim 8 Squadron made bombing and propaganda raid Assab. All bombs hung up due electrical failure.
In above 2 raids 2000 Arabic and 500 Italian pamphlets briefly notifying fall of Sollum and Capuzzo dropped at Berbera Burao Hargeisa Zeilah and Assab water front.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1836/17).

America and West Indies.

Troop Convoys.

Details embarked 0800/16 in CAPETOWN CASTLE, PENNLAND, PASTEUR.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 0253/17).

PORPOISE MONTCLARE.

Arrival 17/12 PORPOISE from U.K.
MONTCLARE from H.X.92.
(S.O.(I) Halifax 1045/17).

ANTHEA - MAASDAM, collision 8/12.

Your1357/16. At 0300/8 in position 0489 44' N., 046° 37' W., MAASDAM course 238 ran into convoy H.X.93. course 35° and collided with ANTHEA. Crew of latter vessel were taken off by MAASDAM and vessel abandoned in sinking condition. MAASDAM was unable to stand by owing to weather. Master of ANTHEA reports all books were left on boad. Position is on convoy tract but derelict has not since been reported and is presumed sunk.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1558/17 to Adty).

"Town" Destroyers.

Halifax departure 17/12 WELLS, NEWARK for St. John N.B.
(S.O.(I) Halifax, 1640/17).

MOST SECRET.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

M.V. Armament.

My 1051/24/8. Allied ships particularly Norwegian and Greek continue to show reluctance to sail without armament. VANJA was advised to refuse to sail without armament by Norwegian Controller of Shipping New York. Consider supply of A.A. Machine Guns to these unarmed ships is of utmust importance. N.O.I.C. Bermuda's 1147/7. Request early information as to shipment of Hotchkiss machine guns to Bermuda.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1756/17 to Adty).

Australia.

TRIASTER. VINNI. TRIONA.

Your 2203/12 and N.B. 1829/12. Nothing further known of TRIASTER, VINNI AND TRIONA. Moorings at Nauru carried away in glae 8/12 loading impossible until they have been replaced. Anticipate TRIENZA with new moorings and food supplies will arrive Nauru escorted by MANOORA (date)
(A. C.N.B. 0300/17/Z to Adty).

Nauru Moorings.

My 0300Z/17. Requested that no ships be sailed for Nauru until moorings have been replaced and protective measures for shipping to and loading at Nauru have been arranged by A.C.N.B.
(A.C.N.B. 0305Z/17 to C.in C. China.)

Nauru Raider.

Pass to Phoscom Cheltenham from Poscom Melbourne number 21. Please communicate to (relatives). Enemy raider seen near Nauru 8/12 attacking shipping detained there by bad weather a ship seen burning no information whether crew passengers transferred to raider. All ships near Island ordered to proceed direct to safe Port. No Further news yet except arrival safely to Port of one ship not owned by Commissioners.
(D.N.O. Victoria 0955Z/17 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
AUSTRALIA (Contd
~~America and West Indies. (Contd.)~~

Nauru Raided. (Contd.)

Pass to Poscem Cheltenham from Phoscem Melbourne No. 22. TITOKI 13th SILVERSMITH 18th at Suva KOMATA wreckage washed up Ocean Island no news yet of TRIASTER TRIONA VINNI. As EVINOS in bad order suggest discharging cargo Risdon/ Port Kembla without further delay, when repaired return loaded for U.K.
(D.N.O. Victoria, 0957Z/17 to Admty).

Merchant Ship W/T.

Admty. message D.W. and Notice to Mariners 2779/1939. Many British Merchant ships still arriving in Australia with undesirable type of W/T receivers. A.C.N.B. has had to adopt policy of refusing permission to sail until undesirable types of receivers have been modified, replaced, or removed. Action also being taken to reduce excessive numbers of private and other entertainment receivers installed. QUEEN MARY on last arrival in Australia had over 200 private receivers installed, of which a considerable proportion was of undesirable types.
(A.C.N.B. 1056/17 to Adty).

MANOORA.

MANOORA left GERANIUM Harbour 2232Z/15 for Darwin.
(A.C.N.B. 1423/17 to Adty).

Unidentified Seaplane.

Unidentified seaplane similar to Heinkel 114 sighted by Coastal Defence Post (Officer and man) at 15,000 feet above Sydney 0640Z/17. Disappeared on course 90° (Grading B.one) Searching aircraft reported sighting object like S/M in 034° 17'S., 152° 16' E., at 1912Z sighted three times in 18 minutes. (Grading C.4.)
(A.C.N.B. 2359Z/17 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
AUSTRALIA (Contd
~~America and West Indies. (Contd.)~~

Nauru Raided. (Contd.)

Pass to Poscem Cheltenham from Phoscem Melbourne No. 22. TITOKI 13th SILVERSMITH 15th at Suva KOMATA wreckage washed up Ocean Island no news yet of TRIASTER TRIONA VINNI. As EVINOS in bad order suggest discharging cargo Risdon/ Port Kembla without further delay, when repaired return loaded for U.K.
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(A.C.N.B. 1056/17 to Adty).

MANOORA.

MANOORA left GERANIUM Harbour 2233Z/15 for Darwin.
(A.C.N.B. 1423/17 to Adty).

Unidentified Seaplane.

Unidentified seaplane similar to Heinkel 114 sighted by Coastal Defence Post (Officer and man) at 15,000 feet above Sydney 0640Z/17. Disappeared on course 90° (Grading B.one) Searching aircraft reported sighting object like S/M in 0340 17'S., 1520 16' E., at 1912Z sighted three times in 18 minutes. (Grading C.4.)
(A.C.N.B. 2359Z/17 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

17.12.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
AUSTRALIA (Contd
~~American and West Indies. (Contd.)~~

Nauru Raideg. (Contd.)

Pass to Poscem Cheltenham from Phoscem Melbourne No. 22. TITOKI 13th SILVERPORTH 15th at Suva KOMATA wreckage washed up Ocean Island no news yet of TRIASTER TRIONA VINNI. As EVINOS in bad order suggest discharging cargo Risdon/ Port Kembla without further delay, when repaired return loaded for U.K.
(D.N.O. Victoria. 0957Z/17 to Admty).

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(A.C.N.B. 2359Z/17 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

BADEN. Left Teneriffe 0400/16. (F.O.C.N.A. 1237/17).
Description (F.O.C.N.A. 1257/17).

HOHEURG
DELOS Arrived Macrae, Galatz, 1056/17).

IDARWALD My 1351/16. For RIO GRANDE read IDARWALD (ships scuttled). (C.in C. S.A., 0965 M/17).

ITHAKA Arrived Trebisond 20/12. Reported she will discharge war materiel in transit to Persia and load cotton for Germany. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1542/17 to Admty. etc.).

MOST SECRET.

17.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

H.X.90.
(attacked 2/12)

My 0191 of 9/12 concerning H.X.90. Further evidence from Captain Mac Millan of MODAVIA confirms beyond doubt that he sighted part of U.Boat at 1630/2 observed through binoculars at range 5 cables. Several observers confirm this was not conning tower but may have been bow. U.Boat was stationary, unstable and apparently in distress. Possibly making vain attempt to surface. (Capt. D. Liverpool, 1627/17).

WESTERN FRANCE.

What is reply to my 2201/14. (Whether Mr. Howe, Canadian Minister of Munition and Staff among survivors picked up by BARON KINAIRD). (D.C. 1515/17 to ACTIVE).

Request early confirmation of reported safety of Mr. Howe, Canadian Minister of Munitions, and party. (C.N.S. Canada, 1543/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

ROTORUA
(sunk, 11/12)
signals.

Following is a portion of Capt. D. Liverpool's 1806/16. (Sinking of S.S. ROTORUA (H.X. 92) by U-Boat at 1315/11 in position 58 deg. 56' N. 11 deg. 08' W., re signals). Request signal officer on your staff may assist N.C.S.O. in investigating question of signals passed via CARDITA with particular reference to wave on which these were passed and whether receipts were obtained. (D.S.D. to F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1840/17)

Submarines Attacked.

1140.

ACTIVE and ANTELOPE attacking firm contact in position 0058° 38' N. (?008°) 30' West. (ACTIVE 1140/17, to C.in C. W.A.).

My 1140/17. 8 attacks were carried out but target was in same position for last 3 attacks giving the idea S/M was on the bottom or contact was on a wreck. After receiving A/C report am of the opinion S/M may be damaged and surfaced in reported position. Am continuing hunt. (ACTIVE, 1600/17).

Your 1600. It now appears that Aircraft report was originated as a result of seeing you and ANTELOPE investigating a contact. Use an electrically fired depth charge if weather permits. (C.in C. W.A., 1818/17 to ACTIVE).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 17.12.1940. Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0105. 60°N., 18 - 22° W., indefinite position (D.S. 409).

2007. D.F. bearings indicate U/B (Italian south of 46° N., and east of 06° W. (V.A.S., 2068/17).

Am over enemy submarine in position 55° 55'N., 7° 25'W. (A/C 1225/17, to Aldergrove).

Air reports enemy submarine in position 055° 55' North 007° 25' West at 1225. (C.in C. W.A. 1316/17 to W.A. Command, ACTIVE).

Am proceeding to investigate enemy S/M reported in C.in C., Western Approaches. 1316/17. Have left ANEMONE with S/M. H.32. (SARDONYX 1410/17 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian
- 1 to westward of Madeira
- 1 near Azores
- 1 or 2 may be about 40° N. 18° W. possibly bound for Azores Area.
- 1 about 50° N. 15° W. outward bound.
- 3 were between 54° 30' N. and 56° N. 16° W. and 19° W. P.M./16th.

German
- No further report of the two between Equator and Cape de Verde Islands.
- 1 may arrive Lorient P.M. to-day.
- 1 possibly still north of 58° N. east of 12° W.
- 1 between 58° N. and 59° N. about 17° W.
- 1 north of 57° N. west of 22° W.
- 1 about 60° N. 20° W.
- 1 may be off Muckle Flugga outward bound.

(D.D.I.C. 1311/17, V.A.S. 1504/17, F.O.C.N.F. 1721/17).

MOST SECRET.

87

5

18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

All B-Class. Destroyers to Home Fleet.

When ready for service MORGAN and BOADICEA are to be sailed to join Home Fleet.

2. All B class destroyers are to be transferred to the Home Fleet and DOUGLAS, EXPPEL and VIMY transferred to the Western Approaches as convenient to C. in C. and C. in C. H.F.
3. WIVERN, WILDSWAN, VANSITTART and WITHERINGTON are to be transferred to the command of C. in C. Portsmouth, WITHERINGTON now and the remainder on relief in Western Approaches by WITCH, VANOC and VOLUNTEER.
(A.C.N.S. M. 1543/18.)

5th D.F. To be transferred to administration of C in C. W.A. on 1/1/41.(A.C.N.S. M. 1553/18.)

Allocation of Destroyers. On completion of duty with W.S.5(A, WORCESTER and VESPER, should rejoin Nore Command and WITHERINGTON Portsmouth Command.

2. WITCH should remain under command of C. in C. Western Approaches in accordance with my 1543/18.

3. VENOMOUS and WATCHMAN are to be transferred to command of C. in C. in exchange for EXMOOR and PYTCHLEY who have joined C. in C. Nore.
(A.C.N.S. M. 1600/18.)

U.S.Naval Observers in H.M. Ships. Following instructions as to information to be afforded replace those in A.M. 2327/24/10. (Head of M.1606/18.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/18.(D.C.1200/18.) At 2330/18. (D.C. 2331/18.)

Movements.

JERSEY.) Sailed Plymouth 1035/17.(C. in C.N.A.
JUPITER) 0012/18) To R/V with PUNJABI area 2.2miles. Name Head Chapel at 1700.(C.in C.N.A. 1255/18.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

ESCAPADE,
ELECTRA.
ECLIPSE.

Arrived Scapa 0100/18.

BONAVENTURE.

Arrived. (P.O.I.C. Greenock 0731/18.)

NIAGARA.

Sailed 0630 as by C. in C. W.A. 1636/12.
(P.O.I.C. Greenock 0802/18.)

Home Fleet.

My 1159/17. Intend to sail in NELSON, with HOOD, REPULSE, 5 Cruisers, and 10 Destroyers at 1600/18 to carry out Tactical Exercises. Fleet will proceed towards 59° 30' N.11° 40' W. at 16 knots weather permitting. FO. Force K requested to arrange programme of R/C and Shadowing exercises and dummy Air Attacks on Fleet between 1030/19 and 1215/19, and to provide A/S Escort for Fleet from 1030/19 to 1230/19. On completion Force K to proceed in execution of previous orders. C. in C. Rosyth provide A/S Air Escort from 1230/19 till dark. Position at 1230/19 will be 59° 40; N.12° 40'W. Fleet will return to Scapa about 1200/20.
(C. in C.H.F. 0904/18 to F.O.Force K.
HOOD with C.S.2 and ARETHUSA are joining me in position 000° Dunnet Head 3 miles and NIGERIA joining F.O.C. 18th C.S. in position 315° Dunnet Head Eastbound at 1645, Swept Channel C. 16 knots. Course from and 282°(C. in C.H.F. 1120/18 to F.O.C. 1st. B.C.S.)
Scapa departure 1540 NELSON. HOOD. and REPULSE with MANCHESTER, EDINBURGH, NIGERIA. ARETHUSA and AURORA screened by COSSACK. TARTAR. BEAGLE. ESCAPADE, ELECTRA, ECLIPSE. DOUGLAS. SIKH, BRILLIANT, BULLDOG.
(A.C.O.S. 1815/18 to Adty.)

FERNIE,
CLEVELAND.
DATTISTOCK,
HOLDERNESS.

Your 1330/17. Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1013/18 to A.C.W.A.)

ACHATES,
ANTELOPE,
ACTIVE.

Arrived. (P.O.I.C. Greenock 1018/18.)

MOST SECRET.

18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

VIMY
SALOPIAN. Proceed passing Swithe 2000 to-day to R/V in 061° 00' N. 015° 30'W. at 1200/20 with SALOPIAN. SALOPIAN leaves Reykjavik a.m./19 for Clyde routed through Minch speed of advance 13½ knots. Provide escort to Butt of Lewis. When released return to Scapa. (R.A.D. HF. 1031/18 and 1718/18 to VIMY. SALOPIAN arrived 1610 G.M.T. (F.O. Iceland 2230/18, VIMY sailed 2023/18. (A.C.O.S. 1135/19.)

FURIOUS. For information. On arrival at Liverpool on 15th December FURIOUS had only 100 tons I.E. 2.6 per cent of usable fuel remaining.
Route now ordered for N.S.5A. will necessitate FURIOUS not exceeding 10-1/2 knots from position X" and, except with head wind, flying only in emergency. (FURIOUS 1500/18 to Adty.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1521/18.)

ARGUS. Intends carry out Flying Operations tomorrow as programme had to be abandoned today owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1640/18.)

VULCAN. Request you sail for Portsmouth where she is to be prepared for special service. (D.O.D. H. 1744/18 to C. in C Nore.)

FORMIDABLE.
NORFOLK. Departed Scapa 2007, screened by BEDOUIN, MATABELE, MASHONA, and ESKIMO (A.C.O.S. 2019/18.)

Operations.

Dutch and
Belgian
Coasts. Arrived M.T.B's 29,31,32 at 1022.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1030/18.)

MOST SECRET.

18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Enemy M/V. torpedoed.

Your 1048/17/12. Coast was made at Zeebrugge, closed to 1 mile from shore. Sighting nothing, altered course for Flushing Roads. Visibility which had been good deteriorated to about ½ mile. At 0330 a large M/V was sighted 000 degrees 1 mile from Nieuwe Sluis, M.T.B.'s 32 and 29 opened out to northward and fired a torpedo each. Both hit, M/V was seen to break up and sink. Heavy machine gun from M/V opened fire, without hitting, just before M/V sunk. On retiring 32 sighted guard boat of trawler type and fired a torpedo which missed, but guard boat was seen to be hit by machine gun fire. M.T.B. 32 then disengaged to seaward with 29 M.T.B. 31 seeing M/V torpedoed, proceeded up the Roads and became engaged with guard ships. A torpedo was fired at 1 of trawler type, an explosion was felt and guard ship ceased fire, 31 then disengaged and retired with 32. Estimated M/V was 6,000 to 7,000 tons in ballast. No casualties or damage, but 31's engine room partially flooded from unknown cause. Her second torpedo was jettisoned to lighten boat on this account.
(BEEHIVE 1120/18. C. in C. Nore.)
(C. in C. Nore 1606/18 to Adty.)

Operation. P.V.3.

Will be carried out tonight commencing at 2000. Trecks in 40 Q.Z.S., 20 miles each side of Smith's Knoll Light Float. (C. in C. Nore 1249/18.) Cancelled tonight (C. in C. Nore 1603/18.)

Western Channel.

PUNJABI, JERSEY, JUPITER to patrol tonight between 4° W and 6° W. on about 49° 45' N., returning to arrive 2.2 miles South of Rame Head Chapel at 1030/19. To destroy any Enemy Vessels approaching Coast. (C. in C. W.A. 1534/18 to JERSEY.)

WELLARD.

Proceed so as to be at 1300/19 in 055° 77 miles from your noon 18th position. Patrol in the vicinity till dark then if nothing met return to base.
(C. in C. WA. 1914/18 to WELLARD.)

Operation. SPECIMEN.

Zero day for Operation PEGASUS is 19/12.
(M.Q.F.C. 1915/18.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

TRIBUNE.	Movements. (S.2. 1021/18.) (V.A.S. 1024/18 to S.2). (S.2. 1905/18.)
PROTEUS.	To be transferred temporarily to 5th Flotilla from date of arrival in U.K. (V.A.S. 1033/18.)
RUBIS.	Arrived Dundee (S.9. 1237/18.)
O.23.	Movements (S.9. 1403/18.) Exercises cancelled. Proceed to execute previous orders.(S.9. 1417/18 to O.23).
L.23.	In Scapa Flow tomorrow.(A.C.O.S. 1603/18.)
Greenock Area.	Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1636/18.)
Positions.	For following 24 hours at 0800/19. (V.A.S. 1821/18.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.	Following Patrols being flown today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0002/18.) My 0002/18. HORNLI, STAB, S.9. all cancelled, and SYDERO and MUGGY, not being flown today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1254/18 to C. in C. H.F.) Patrol S.T.I. for AM/18 abandoned. S.T.2. at 0930/19 and ST.1. at 1400/19.(C.O. N.A.S. Stornoway 1412/18 to A.C.O.S.)
Norwegian Coast. Offensive Patrol.	If weather suitable propose carrying out our offensive patrol against enemy shipping in the vicinity of Haugesund and Bommel Fjord with 4 Skuas leaving Hatston 1100/19.(Hatston 1056/18 to A.C.O.S.)
	Your 1056/18.Approved.(A.C.O.S. 1721/18. to Hatston.
Kite in TONBRIDGE.	Approval is given to C. in C. Portsmouth's proposal to fly one Kite up to 3,500 feet from TONBRIDGE between 1000 and 1200 hours on 19/12 in West Solent Area. Kite not to be flown if cloud base is below 1000'and visibility is less than 1500 yards. Warn Pilots.(Air Ministry F.O.6.1130/18 to H.Q.B.C.)

MOST SECRET.

18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Hatston. Your 1523/15. Against an initial equipment of 20 aircraft 42 and 22 squadrons at present each hold 18 Beauforts. In view of ease of reinforcing 42 squadron (2 hour flight) considered unnecessary to send detachment 22 squadron until situation demands it. Emphasise in addition that all coastal command aircraft on patrol are available for attack of fleeting target. (Air Ministry 1220/18 to Adty.)

SILENT SINKER. Escorts. Your 1100/18. Request you will inform me in what areas in Irish Sea and North Channel Fighter Escort can be provided for SILENT and SINKER on 19th.. (C. in C. W.A. 1306/18 to H.Q.F.C.)

TIRPITZ. Lorient Brest. 22 Sqdn. to attack TIRPITZ tonight at Wilhelmshaven.
53 Sqdn. to attack S/M's at Lorient.
59 Sqdn., to attack S/M's and Dockyard at Brest.(H.Q.C.C. 1315/18 to 16 Group, North Coates, Thorney Island.)

Bordeaux. 217 Sqdn. to attack S/M's in Basin tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1411/18 to 15 Group St. Eval.)

Torpedo Bomber. Your 1834/17. No. 42 Squadron is at Wick and not yet up to operational strength. No. 22. Squadron is in the Wash Area. These 2 squadrons are the only R.A.F. squadrons trained for T/B attacks, and may have to reinforce each other.

Striking Force at Plymouth. Fleet Air Arm squadrons when available are employed on minelaying duties, but at times obtain squadrons awaiting embarkation may be available as a torpedo bomber striking force. At present time no Fleet Air Arm Squadron is so available.

When the necessary R.A.F. personnel has been trained to drop torpedoes it is hoped that a torpedo bomber striking force will be based conveniently for use in the Plymouth area. In the mean time it will be necessary to make the best use possible of aircraft with their bomb armaments.(V.C.N.S. 2204/18 to C. in C. W.A.

Enemy Air Activity.

TWEED. (British,2697 Tons.) Bombed and machine-gunned in 53 40' N.5 W.Hit in No. 1.Hold. (Cleethorpes W/T. 0847/18.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. Contd.

CAMBRIA. (British, 436 Tons.) Attacked by A/C in 53° 20' N. 5° 30' W.(Portland Radio 0900/18.

Unknown A/C over County Cork. Aircraft of unknown nationality passed over Castle Freake at 0840 hrs. going south west, over Dunmanway. 0840 hrs. over Ballingeary 0845 hrs.,over Galley Head 0845 hrs. (Received at 0845. C. in C.W.A. 0911/18. to Adty.)

KERMERVAL. (Trawler) Repeatedly attacked by A/C. at 1700/8/12 while fishing 20 miles S.S.E. of Fastnet. No damage or casualties. (P.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1132/18.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary. Following 7 vessels sunk yesterday by Mines in Sheerness/Southend area. A number of spontaneous explosions of mines occurred during the day, one explosion being sometimes followed immediately by another.(C. in C. Nore 0034/18 to Adty.)

Belfast. Closed. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0442/18.)
Open. Ships must not leave Swept Channel (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1314/18.)

TEVIOT BANK. Arrived 1050. (F.O. Number 1105/18.)
ICARUS.

INTREPID ICARUS. My 1331/16. To disembark Guns at Immingham and be ready to sail for Scapa by 22/12 having embarked Mining Huts, Taut Wire Gear, and full outfit of Mines. Details of Mines (A.C.N.S.H. 1137/18 to C. in C. Nore.)

Dover Area swept. 269. Sweeping carried out to 0800/18th December. In Q.Z.S. 105 area to Westward of 'A' and No. 4 buoys extended 2 cables 75 per cent also 40 per cent searching sweep from Lydd float to S.W. gate. Negative result 40 per cent exploratory sweep between number 4 and Sandhead buoys found one mine and 5 explosive cutters.(V.A.Dover 1225/18.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Q.Z.X.42. I consider it most unlikely that Moored Mines now exist in Q.Z.X. 42 if indeed they ever existed, and suggest Q.Z.X.42 be cancelled.@Reasons. Also consider that Mines about to be laid off this Coast should be laid well inside the 100 fathom line. (V.A.S. 1658/18 to Adty.)

M.(C. in C. H.F. 2329/17.)

M°FUNDO. (M/S. Trawler). Sunk by small Ground Mine at 1355/18.B.S.T. in 51° 55' 36" N. 1° 21' 12"E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1752/18)

HARWICH Area Sweep. Intend sailing 6 Fleetsweepers at 1630 on 19th or 20th December to carry out night search of 117 Q.Z.S. Sweeping to commence at S.Falls at approx. 0500 the following morning, ships arriving position 'X' at 0815.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1944/18. to C. in C.Nore.

Spurn Point. At 1032/18. D.W.Fitzgerald exploded a Mine in 110° Spurn Point Lighthouse 4 miles with S.A. gear.(F.O.Number 2335/18 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Thames Estuary. Believed E-Boats at 2325 near No. 56 Buoy, steering Eastwards.(C.in C. Nore 0023/18.)

Suspicious Vessel. Suspicious vessel 059° 34' North 016° 47' West, steering varying course, high speed for type - timber carrier. Foremast stepped well forward funnel close abaft bridge. Found with Dutch WOENSDRECHT and made off on approach.(MARON 1240/18 to C. in C.W.A.)
Had WOENSDRECHT anything to report about suspicious vessel.(C.in C.W.A.1504/18 to Maron.)
Your 1504/18. WOENSDRECHT suspicious. Reported to be bound for Oban. No chart. Request instructions.(MARON 1900/18 to C. in C.W.A.
Your 1900/18. Proceed to execute previous orders.(C.in C.W.A. 1410/19 to MARON.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

M/F. D/F.
In
Destroyers. Your 1818/14. M/F D/F has proved valuable in destroyers navigation and for effecting rendezvous with ships or A/C. I would, therefore, deprecate its permanent removal and recommend every effort be made to retain it even if only a small set as fitted in merchant ships. Request further particulars of the factors which might necessitate its removal.(C.in C.H.F. 1130/18 to Adty.)

Casualties & Defects.

CLAUDIUS MAGNIN. (British, 2310 Tons.) Broken down between SO.D. and SO.E. Buoys. Tug WATERBEYER sailed to tow to Tyne. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1618 to Adty.)

NORWICH CITY. (A/S. Trawler) In 1000 Skerryvore 5 miles at 0100/18. Proceed there with all despatch (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0214/18 to Tug SCHELDE) SCHELDE reports ship in tow at 1055 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1210/18.) Proceed to Clyde with NORWICH CITY (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1900/18 to SCHELDE). Arrived in tow of SCHELDE.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1732/19.)

EMPIRE ELK. At 0800 in 0400 Rathlin Island 3 miles proceeding with EMPIRE ELK towards Rathlin Bay. (ENGLISHMAN 0810/18 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Arrived in tow of ENGLISHMAN and SUPERMAN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2215/19.)

MARAUDER. (Rescue Tug) Requires dockyard repairs. Being sailed PM/18 as by your 1722/16. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1034/18 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

BRAMLEBAS. Following received from MISTRAL. Have picked up three survivors from French S.S. BRAMLIBAS foundered 0900 Saturday 14th.(C. in C. W.A. 1216/18 to Adty.)

French destroyer MISTRAL on passage Plymouth - Dartmouth picked up 3 survivors from BRAMLEBAS, apparently foundered in vicinity of Prawle Point at 1215 approximately. Keep a good look out.
(C.in C. W.A. 1336/18 to JERSEY, JUPITER, and 1442/18 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

BRANLEBAS.

Where did you pick up survivors and is there possibility of more being found. (C. in C. W.A. 1338/18 to MISTRAL.) Your 2055/16. F.S. MISTRAL has arrived with following three survivors from F.S. BRANLEBAS.

From accounts of survivors it appears that BRANLEBAS broke in half due to stress of weather at about 0910 on 14/12 near Lands End but it is considered more probable loss occurred off the Lizard. Written report is being forwarded. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1939/18. to C. in C.W.A

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.	Estimated positions (D.T.D., 1047/18 to C.in C. H.F.).
F.S.62.	Sailed 0230. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0310/18).
H.N.55.	2238/17, escorts SPURS, FANDANGO. 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 0927/18, 0937/18).
H.N.55 Q.	1300/18, escort SAON. 14 ships. Route. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1037/18) Sailed 1430/18 (N.C.S.O. Oban 1550/18)
H.X.97.	Sailing telegram, escorts HEPATICA, COMORIN (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1114/18) List of ships (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1119/18).
H.N. 57.	Code "Material" 2300/20, escorts PAYNTER, ARCTIC EXPLORER. 12 ships. (N.C.S.O., Greenock, 1206/18).
H.X.95.	Sailing telegram as amended Admty. (D.T.D., 1410/18).
S.C.13.	Scattered, weather, hove to in N.W. App. Casualties. (D.T.D., 1413/18 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
H.X.94.	Escorted by SCIMITAR, ARAB, EL CAPITAN, HARLOW. Route. (C.in C. W.A., 1455/18 to C.in C. H.F.).
H.O.48.	Fleet. 19 ships, DEPTFORD. (C.in C. W.A. 1528/18 and 1908/18 to SCARBOROUGH, VANSITTART, CALDWELL, WESTCOTT, BLUEBELL, HONEYSUCKLE)
H.N. 43.	1830/19 MORRIS DANCE, DRANSEY. 23 ships (13 overseas). Codes, Usage, Monitor (H.N.L. portion) Mixture (H.N.O. portion).
H.X.92.	Report whether my 1330/6 charging date of R.V. was received by MONTCLARE and passed to Commodore. (D.T.D. to R.A.3, 1706/18)
F.N. 60.	Arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1727/18).
F.N.62.	My 2303/17. N.O.I.C. Humber reports no ship from Humber for F.N.62. (C.in C. Rosyth 0121/18). Cancel my 0121/18. F.N.62 entirely cancelled VANITY and WESTMINSTER proceed direct to Rosyth. (C.in C. Rosyth 1225/18)
H.X.93 B.	H.X.93 B. not met. My position 063° 46'N., 005° 08' W., visibility 5 miles. (ROSEMARY, 0845/18).
S.C.16.	My 1101/(?11). Further machinery defect in LACONIA presents joining S.C.16 in time to be of value, you should therefore pay special attention to covering this convoy. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1106/18 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

/ H.N. 41. .....

MOST SECRET.

18.12.1940.
Wednesday.

~~WAR DIARY.~~

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Estimated positions (D.T.D., 1047/18 to C.in C. H.F.).

F.S.62. Sailed 0230. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0310/18).

H.N.55. 2228/17, escorts SPURS, FANDANGO. 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 0927/18, 0937/18).

H.N.55 Q. 1300/18, escort SAON. 14 ships. Route. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1037/18)
Sailed 1430/18 (N.C.S.O. Oban 1550/18)

H.X.97. Sailing telegram, escorts HEPATICA, COMORIN (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1114/18)
List of ships (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1119/18).

H.N. 57. Code "Material" 2300/20, escorts PAYNTER, ARCTIC EXPLORER.
12 ships. (N.C.S.O., Greenock, 1206/18).

H.X.95. Sailing telegram as amended Admty. (D.T.D., 1410/18).

S.C.13. Scattered, weather, hove to in N.W. App. Casualties. (D.T.D., 1413/18 to H.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X.94. Escorted by SCIMITAR, ARAB, EL CAPITAN, HARLOW. Route. (C.in C. W.A., 1455/18 to C.in C. H.F.).

H.O.48. Fleet. 19 ships, DEPTFORD. (C.in C. W.A. 1528/18 and 1908/18 to SCARBOROUGH, VANSITTART, CALDWELL, WESTCOTT, BLUEBELL, HONEYSUCKLE)

E.N. 43. 1830/19 MORRIS DANCE, DRANCEY. 23 ships (13 overseas). Codes, Usage, Monitor (E.N.L. portion) Mixture (E.N.O. portion).

H.X.92. Report whether my 1330/6 charging date of R.V. was received by MONTCLARE and passed to Commodore. (D.T.D. to R.A.S, 1706/18)

F.N. 60. Arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1727/18).

F.N.62. My 2305/17. N.O.I.C. Humber reports no ship from Humber for F.N.62. (C.in C. Rosyth 0121/18).
Cancel my 0121/18. F.N.62 entirely cancelled VANITY and WESTMINSTER proceed direct to Rosyth. (C.in C. Rosyth 1225/18)

H.X.93 B. H.X.93 B. not met. My position 053° 46'N., 005° 08' W., visibility 5 miles. (ROSEMARY, 0845/18).

S.C.16. My 1101/(?11). Further machinery defect in LACONIA presents joining S.C.16 in time to be of value, you should therefore pay special attention to covering this convoy. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1106/18 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

/ E.N. 41. .....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys (Contd.)

E.N.41. 000^{E} Cape Wrath at 0940 (A.C.O.S. 1124/18).

S.L.S.58. MARSDALE leave patrol to join S.L.S.58 (routed). To R/V with local escort (position) at 0900/26 for inward escort to Clyde. (F.O.C.N.P. 1130/18 to Western Patrol)

E.N.42. Routed as follows, thence arrive Pentland Firth 0600/19. (R.A.(D) H.F. 1215/18 to ALYNBANK)

E.N.43. } Sail 1400/19 for Methil. Act
W.N.56. } subsequently as additional A/A escort to E.N.43 sailing 1630/19. On meeting transfer to W.N.56 due Cape Wrath 0330/21 and Duncansby 1330/21. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1547/18 to FLEETWOOD).

Troop Convoys.

W.S.5A. A/S escort for W.S.5A slow, BATH, ST.MARY'S, ST. ALBANS, WORCESTER, WATCHMAN, VENOMOUS, WITHERINGTON, WITCH, CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN, GERANIUM, JONQUIL. S.O. BATH. Additional A/A escort, WELLINGTON. A/S escort for W.S.5A fast HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, KELVIN, KIPLING, BEVERLEY, OTTAWA, ST. LAURENT, FIORUN. S.O. HIGHLANDER. (C.in C. W.A. 1118/18 to S.O. Force K).

O.B.M. 261. 1716/18. DERBY COUNTY, YORK CITY, 10. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1730/18) List and destinations (1732/18).

C.E.19. List. (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1843/18).

S.L.O.57. VISCOUNT and S.L.O. 57 expect to arrive Oban 0600/19. VISCOUNT requiring fuel. (VISCOUNT, 1800/18).

S.L.57 B. Detach YORK CITY in time to rendezvous S.L.57 B in 053° 46'N. 005° 08'W. at 1100/19. (C.in C. W.A. 1844/18).

W.S.5A (contd.) Intend sailing Clyde portion of W.S.5A slow 12 ships escorted by BONAVENTURE, BATH. ST. ALBANS, ST. MARYS, WATCHMAN, WORCESTER 2200/18 to R/V in accordance with F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1030/17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1155/18 to Admty.)

Request information whether Clyde portion of W.S.5A slow will be ready to sail a.m./19th and, if not, earliest time of sailing. (C.in C. W.A. 1155/18 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

/ Admiralty 2260/6 ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Troop Convoys
W.S.5A. (Contd.)

Admiralty 2250/6.
A/S escort for convoy W.S.5A fast:-
Liverpool Portion. KELVIN, KIPLING, DEVONSHIRE.
Clyde Portion, OTTAWA, ST.LAURENT, PICORUN. HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, will join from Londonderry.
S.O. of escort HIGHLANDER.
Further orders will be given for escorts leaving convoy.
(C.in C. W.A. 1212/18 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Your 1155/18. T.L.C's all loaded and all ships at tail of bank except HARSHER. HARSHER will proceed down river 19/12 and should be swung and ready for sea 0.m./19 Thursday evening. Thursday night 19/12 is earliest time for all six to sail and this time depends on weather moderating and above difficulties being overcome. D.S.T. O. Glasgow is replying regarding other ships concerned.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1535/18).

Sailed WELLINGTON, WETHERINGTON, WITCH, CLEMATIS, CYCLAMEN, GERANIUM, JONQUIL escorting W.S.5A (Slow) 1615.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1817/18).

Sailed Belfast portion of W.S.5A slow escorted by MONTGOMERY to rendezvous in accordance with F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1030/17. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2335/18).

Your 1155/18. All troop transports included in W.S.5A (slow) will be ready to sail 2200/18. EMPIRE TROOPER has defective capstan and may have to slip cable. LEOPOLDVILLE will sail without adjusting compasses. 1900/18.

Reference W.A. Convoy Instructions section C diagram (xii) ships will be in following positions when you join convoy. WITHERINGTON, GERANIUM, CLEMATIS, JONQUIL, CYCLAMEN, WITCH (b) (c) (d) (e) (g) (n) respectively. WELLINGTON will then be part of anti-aircraft escort. Request you as Senior Officer of anti-submarine escort readjust position as desired.
VENOMOUS from Belfast is also expected to join 0030/19 (WELLINGTON, 1914/18 to BATH

BATH, ST. MARYS and ST.ALBANS to proceed to Belfast to complete with water afterwards sailing to rejoin convoy.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2311/18 to Liverpool).

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Troop Convoys W.S.5A (Contd.)

Sailed Clyde portion W.S.5A slow escorted by BATH, ST. MARYS, WORCESTER and WATCHMAN to N/V in accordance with F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1030/17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2350/18 to Admty.)

6 M/V's.

N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 1916/17 (sailing of 6 M.V's), detail one A/S trawler as escort. (C.in C. W.A. 1104/18).

My 1916/17. Sailed for onward routeing. Escort A/S trawler PEARL. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1917/18).

8 M/V's

N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 1913/17 (sailing of 8 M.V's). detail 2 A/S trawlers as escort; to arrive off Q.Z.3. 180 at 0900/20 thence to Falmouth (C.in C. W.A. 1112/18).
My 1913/17 and your 1112/18. Sailed 5 M.V. for Hartland Cap. Escort A/S trawlers KINGSTON ANDALUSITE and VICTRIX. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1736/18).

7 M/V's

Approx. 7 small M/V's escort MOLLUSC for Tees and Tyne will be sailed from Humber 20/12. (C.in C. Nore 2330/18)

SATURNUS.

Your 1747/17. Swedish Naval Attache was informed December 13th that it was in order for SATURNUS to report every 4 hours, and undertook to inform Swedish authorities Naval Attache states that this has been done.
(Ad. of M. 1219/18 to N.A. Stockholm).

E. Coast Shipping.

Cancel my 2227/11. Ministry of Shipping has now been requested to rearrange temporarily its programmes to ensure that minimum number of ocean going motor ships will discharge on East coast south of Firth of Forth also that as many motor coasting vessels as possible will be transferred from East to West coast trading. There will remain however a number of motor ships essential for maintaining supplies on East coast, and subject to Admiralty agreement, these may proceed. The instructions already given with regard to towage at Tyne, Tees and Blyth still remain in force. Important that ocean going motor ships should keep their engine revolutions as low as possible, consistent with navigability, in waters where acoustic mines are suspected. Such ships should be instructed that, when they leave convoy to enter a harbour or for any other reason, they should not increase

/ their ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.).

E. Coast Shipping. (contd.)

their engine revolutions above what they have been using whilst in convoy. Motor coasting vessels, when approaching harbours and particularly between Humber light vessel and Grimsby roads and also between the Sunk light vessel and Southend are to be instructed to reduce their engine revolutions to half speed, or as low as safety permits, although this may entail temporarily parting from convoy.
The number of ocean going motor tankers coming to East Coast ports will be decided as at present by direct consultation between the Oil Board and Admiralty.
Subject to above instructions, motor vessels on the East Coast now being held should be allowed to proceed.
(D.T.D. 1852/18 to A.I.C.47).

My 2212/13 Admiralty Agreement for coasting and ocean-going motor ships to proceed may be assumed to have been given unless specific signals to the contrary for named ships are made by the Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 1853/18 to A.I.C.47).

MOST SECRET.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

NARVAL. TRITON. Overdue.

French submarine NARVAL is now 50 hours and TRITON is 30 hours overdue. Neither ship has reported its position. Following books were carried by both submarines. They were not issued with extracts from S.P.02218. In addition TRITON carried (list). In addition French S/M NARVAL carried (details). She was not instructed in emergency scrambing, proceedure. NARVEL left Malta p.m./2 for patrol to westward of Lampedusa and was due back a.m./16. TRITON left Malta p.m./28 for patrol in Southern Adriatic and was due back a.m./17. (V.A. Malta, 1123/18 to C.in C. Med.)

OLYMPUS.

As programme prohibits ABINGDON and FERMOY (? helping) you attack to-day. UPRIGHT leaves at 1715/18 through position 035° 32' N., 014° 12'E. If weather suitable for A/S work 19/12 you must complete D/F swing by 1015. If A/S Trawlers do not make R/V return to harbour.
(V.A. Malta, 1205/18 to OLYMPUS).

Bardia bombed and entered by Army.

Operational Summary No.191 up to 1200/18. 1. Egypt. Night 16-17/12. 7 Blenheims bombed Bardia starting several small fires on the outskirts and destroying 2 A.A. gun posts. 1 Blenheim bombed Derna aerodrome. Day 17/12. 14 Blenheims bombed Bardia. Hurricanes continued to harry retreating enemy columns on road near Tobruk making low-flying machine-gun attacks and inflicting heavy personnel casualties and damage to M.T. Hurricanes shot down 1 CR.42 and 1 Macchi 200 confirmed and probably destroyed 1 CR.42 and 1 Macchi 200. Reconnaissance of coast from Derna to Bardia and of Bardia area. G.H.Q.M.E. report our troops entered Bardia on 17/12 but situation is still obscure.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1321/18).

Air Reconnaissance

Air reconnaissance 18/12 Taranto, two damaged CAVOUR near one cruiser five destroyers seven large merchant vessels. Brindisi, 10 large merchant vessels berthed inner harbour alongside. Bari fog prevented observation. Messina one cruiser one destroyer.
(V.A.Malta, 1511/18).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Albania supplies.

Your 1248/13. (G.H.Q. stressing importance of preventing Italian materials of war from reaching Albania.) Greek G.H.Q. reports10,200 prisoners up to December,13th. (N.A.Athens, 1543/18 to N.A. Belgrade.)

Asdic Sets, Greece.

Amty. 1806/17/11. In anticipation of requirements one type 127 asdic set suitable for AETOS class destroyer and one type 128 asdic set suitable for KING class destroyer are being sent Malta first opportunity. Reply awaited concerning asdic fitting of Italian-built destroyers referred to as SPETSAI class in former message. (D.A/S.W. 1657/18 to C.in C. Med.)

Malta Air Reports.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700/18 all times G.M.T. 0932/0947 enemy aircraft approached to within 6 miles of the coast. 6 Hurricanes up but no interception. Enemy did not cross the coast. 0545 to 1505 Sunderland reconnaissance Western Ionian Sea. Nil report, 0700 to 1230 Glenn Martin reconnaissance Taranto and Brindisi. Taranto outer harbour usual 3 CAVOUR battleships 1 damaged and 1 sunken. By arrangement with V.A.Malta, sunken CAVOUR will not in future be included in reconnaissance reports of Taranto. 7 M/V's 10,000 tons 3 destroyers. Inner harbour 1 6-inch cruiser, 2 destroyers Brindisi, 9 M/Vs. 7000 tons 1 M/V 10,000 tons leaving harbour. Bari not reconnoitred Low clouds snow and rainstorms encountered. No opposition. 0828 to 1105 Glen Martin recco. Massina. 1 Condottieri Class Cruiser 1 destroyerin harbour 1 M/V 7,000 tons heading up the Straits.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/18).

M.C.2.

Operation M.C.2. Enclosures 6 para.two. Convoy M.C.1. will pass through following positions.
(V.A. Malta, 1721/18 to Med. Fleet).

MOST SECRET.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

TRUANT.
R. of P.

TRUANT preliminary report: Night of 13/14/D sank certainly one and possibly a second laden Merchant vessel off Spartivento Cape. Vessels were steering N.E. and were escorted by a sloop. Night of 15-16/12 sank large laden Southbound tanker off Colonne. Tanker was accompanied by Italian vessel CARALIS which escaped. All shipping proceeding by night only. Heard 14 distant explosions during forenoon 16/12. Italian vessel CARALIS was heard calling up REGGIO and Taranto probably for motor anti-Submarine boat.
(V.A. Malta 1743/18 to C.in C. Med.)

Lorries for Greece.

Your Q/30600 17/12. (? All) captured lorries and arms can offer gratefully accepted. As many lorries as possible should be petrol driven owing to shortage Greece of workshops spare parts and fuel for Diesel engines. Greek Government suggest transport lorries on decks TANAIS ARTEMIS PITTA ISIS now will leave (? as arranged) and by YDREOS leaving Piraeus 22/12. Presume you will arrange convoy.
(Mil. Mission. Athens. 1800/18 to C.in C. M.E.)

East Indies.

Air Menace. Japan.

Reply to Air Ministry X.305 of 14/12 re prospective threat of air attack from Frenc Indo-China or Thailand. (Air H.Q. India 1045/18).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Your 1254/22 and 1304/23. Balance of advantage appears to be in use of Trincomalee while only one QUEEN MARY class is operating. Date she is expected to be available. capacity of QUEEN ELIZABETH QUEEN MARY and NIEUW AMSTERDAM.
(D.O.D. (F) 1927/18 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

W.S.4.A.

Departures at 0251Z/18 KINGSTON and two merchant ships for W.S.4.A.
(N.O.I.C.Aden, 0303Z/18 to Adty, CORNWALL, KANIMBLA, etc.)

Departures PERTH and CARLISLE at 0400Z/18 to join W.S.4.A.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0410Z/18).

WESTRALIA
SOUTHAMPTON
PERTH.

Admty. 0120/15 WESTRALIA will leave Colombo p.m./23 for Fremantle. SOUTHAMPTON will escort W.S.4.B. to Suez arriving (date) to join Mediterranean Fleet.
PERTH will escort W.S.4.A. to Suez arriving 13/12 to join Mediterranean Fleet.
(C.in C. E.I. 0746/18).

WESTRALIA,
HOBART,
CAPETOWN.

My 1234/17 and my 1232/17 to Force V only.
If no further information is received WESTRALIA is to fuel from Oiler APPLELEAF as convenient without delaying HOBART or CAPETOWN but is to patrol outside Addu Atoll dueing night of 19/20/12. WESTRALIA is to leave area for Colombo about 1100Z/12/20 provided CAPETOWN has completed fuelling. H.M.A.S. HOBART after fuelling is to proceed at 16 knots to position 002 N., 083 E giving cover to ? (shipping) and then to Fremantle along Colombo-Fremantle trade route. HOBART is to transfer to WESTRALIA any ratings stores or mails for Colombo.
(C.in C. E.I. 1244/Z/18 to Force V.)

RANCHI.

Subject to no further information being received RANCHI on arrival position 004° 065° E., to proceed to position 009°S., 055° E., at 15 knots and thence to Mombasa adjusting speed to arrive a.m./23.
(C.in C. E.I. 1246Z/18 to Force V.)

Port
Sudan
Bombed.

Day 17/12. 3 formations each of 3 S.79's and 1 of 4 S.79's bombed Port Sudan at half four hour intervals destroying 10,000 gallons of petrol, No casualties resulted. Gladiators and Hurricanes engaged first 3 formations damaging 1 S.79.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1322/18).

WAR DIARY.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Mine-sweepers.

A.M. 1712/20/10 A.M. 2113/29/11 and minesweeping summary No. 48 para. 13. Request information as to intended allocation of SARNA, SOIKA, SOTRA, and SVANA as it is not clear which if any are to be initially based at Aden.
(C.in C. E.I. 1402Z/18 to Adty).

Air Report. Convoy Escorts.

Summary No. 189 and Operational Summary. Following for 24 hours ending 1500 18/12. 4 Blenheims 203 Sqdn. provided fighter escorts 2 for convoy B.S.11 and 2 for convoy W.S.4A. 2 Blenheims 203 Sqdn. en route to Kamaran for convoy duties made airsweeps of Red Sea prior to night passage of convoys. All times G.M.T.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1621/18).

W.S.4.B. B.S.11½.

My 0632/15. W.S.4.B. is now expected to pass Aden 25/12 and arrive at Suez (date). My 0634/15 B.S.11½ will now sail on 25/12.
(C.in C. E.I. 1434Z/18 to S.N.O. Red Sea etc)

China.

Cables.

Only Route at present to Hongkong Shanghai Manila North China and Japan is via Montreal and then Compac route from San Francisco. This means Government TFC must pass through U.S.A. Please asknowledge.
(Cables and Wireless No. T.O.C./18 to Adty).

OLE JACOB. TEDDY. (raider victims.)

Navy department has following information received from Tokyo. Steamer TEDDY was captured by German raider 6/11 and was later sunk. Norwegian Tanker OLE JACOB was captured by raider 13/11. OLE JACOB was prepared to fight but German effected capture by posing as British ship. German raider described as a merchant vessel 10,000 - 13,000 tons, 18 knots, mounting six inch guns and torpedo tubes, equipped with aeroplanes and painted to resemble ship of P and O line. Ship has dummy equipment to permit various disguises and has been very successful using them.

/In ...

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

OLE JACOB.
TEDDY.
(raider victims)

In crew TEDDY when captured were 4 Australians who were not among those sent to Japan on OLE JACOB and transferred to SCHARNHORST at Kobe.
(N.A. Washington 1721/18 to Adty).

America and West Indies.

Bahamas.
Shipbuilding.

Governor of Bahamas has requested consideration be given to question of constructing small craft for Admiralty Service in Bahamas. Yard can undertake 7 wooden ships of 500 tons and lighter craft including boats and rafts. 40% of timber required can be found in colony. Remainder and all manufactured fittings can probably be procured in Canada whence opportunity of direct shipments are frequent. Suggest these yards be used in preference to ordering small craft in U.S.
(C.in C.A.W.I. 1026/18 to Adty).

CARADOC
WAR BRAHMIN
DIOMEDE.

CARADOC leaves Nassau A.M./19 and proceeds to Bermuda so as to arrive P.M./21. Oiler WAR BRAHMIN leaves Nassau A.M./19 and proceeds to Bermuda. DIOMEDE leaves Kingston Jamaica P.M./20 and proceeds to Trinidad so as to arrive 23/12.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 122/18).

HEPAKICA.

Halifax departure December 18th H.M.S. HEPAKICA local and ocean escort.
(S.O.(I) 1235/13 to Adty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Mines.

Japanese broadcast states that a Japanese ship sighted German floating mines while en route from Melbourne to Japan. The broadcast continued "it is presumed that the mines were intended for the QUEEN MARY". (D.S.470).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.12.43.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

AEGINA. Probably at Naples or Genoa, is believed to be sailing for Valencia 18/12. (D.S.470).

SPARTA. Docking at Genoa on 18/12 (D.S. 470).

NORDERNEY. Has completed loading 1,000 tons bunker coal.
(N.C.S.O. para. 1539/18).

BADEN. C.A.F.O. 422/40. (BADEN, Hamburg, America Line) Sailed from Tenerife night of 15/16/12. Description. Ship may be making for French West Coast port possibly St. Nazaire.
(V.A.S. 2119/18 to Submarines Area B.)
(C.in C. S.A. 2011N/18 to S.A.Station).

IDARWALD, RHEIN, reports of Scuttling on 8/12 and 11/12. Your 1957/13. (account of interceptions required required for propaganda Dutch E.I.) IDARWALD and RHEIN left Tampico a.m.29/11 CARADOC and VAN KINSBERGEN ordered to Florida Straits and DIOMEDE to Yucatan Channel to intercept. 2 Dutch aircraft chartered at Curacao and sent to operate from Jamaica. Oiler WAR BRAHMIN ordered to Nassau as advanced fuelling base. German ships known to be proceeding indipendently and speed not exceeding 6 knots owing to dirty bottoms.
On 10/12 (?) a W/T message to Berlin from IDARWALD was intercepted by a British tanker steting coal was very bad, and ship would be unable to reach even Azores. Interception IDARWALD. DIOMEDE carrying out search close to Cuban coast sighted IDARWALD at 1320/8. Dutch aircraft also searching this area sighted IDARWALD about same time and pointed out position to DIOMEDE. IDARWALD brought to by DIOMEDE with shot across bows, abandoned ship which was on fire on bridge and in engine room. Boarding party sent from DIOMEDE. DIOMEDE picked up crew after preventing escape of boat by machine gunfire across bows and then went alongside IDARWALD. Fire was got under control, but ship making water slowly. Submersible pump used but unable to compete with flood. Fire again broke out but again got under control.

/At ...

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

IDARWALD RHEIN reports of scuttling on 8/12 and 11/12. (Contd.)

At midnight IDARWALD labouring and DIOMEDE forced to withdraw boarding party and lay off. At daylight 9/12 DIOMEDE again went alongside and attempted to tow IDARWALD with view to beaching. Ship settling by head and DIOMEDE again forced to abandon. IDARWALD sank at 1252 on 9/12.

Interception of RHEIN. VAN KINSBERGEN carrying out search to north west of Tortuga Bank sighted suspicious vessel at 0130/11. Closed and switched on searchlight and identified as RHEIN. On being ordered to stop RHEIN turned away zigzagging. Brought to by shot across bows. Explosion in RHEIN followed immediately with flames and smoke from Funnels. Crew abandoned ship. Boarding party sent from VAN KINSBERGEN but RHEIN burning fiercely from stem to stern and fire beyond control and forced to withdraw. Crew taken on board VAN KINSBERGEN and later transferred to CARADOC at request of C.O. VAN KINSBERGEN. RHEIN continued to burn fiercely and listed heavily. CARADOC arrived to assist at 1400 but fire intense and weather too rough for going alongside. Hulk useless except for scrap iron and sunk by gunfire from CARADOC. CARADOC reports RHEIN no attempt at disguise. Captain's written orders state ship sailing under orders of German Admiralty and Naval discipline enforced. Scuttle and burning drill frequently exercised. First destination Teneriffe Captain of DIEG (Sig. Letters Undecypheruble ? DIEU (RHEIN)). Senior Officer at Tampico and issued orders to sail.
Cargo reported nil but forward hold suspected to contain petrol in drums.
Behaviour of prisoners quiet and subdued.
Captain was submarine officer in last war.
Both ships reported to have Derricks slung out board to hamper ship alongside.

Scuttling of DHMF IDARWALD subsequently ascertained to have been carried out by removal of man hole doors to ballast tanks under cargo in hold and opening of main ballast line.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1152/18 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GRADISCA. Told at 1530/17 to enter harbour (Bari) immediately and pilot would take her to dockyard. She replied at 1600 unable to do so at present on account of bad weather and high seas.
(D.S. 470).

MAURO CROCE. (ex GALLIPOLI) 1049 tons, sailed from Barcelona on 15/12 for Genoa.
(D.S.470).

MOST SECRET.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

EMPIRE JAGUAR. - Torpedoed on 9/12. Now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 470).

WESTERN PRINCE. Arrived S.S. BARON KINNAIRD with survivors of WESTERN PRINCE including Mr. Howe and Mr. Bone.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0444/18).

WORCESTERSHIRE A.M.C. One enemy vessel bearing 090 distance 8 miles position 54.14 N., 21.46 W.
(WORCESTERSHIRE 0738/18).

My 0739. Enemy probably submarine.
(WORCESTERSHIRE 0650/18).

My 0650. About 8 rounds fired at me in moonlight by unseen enemy presumably S/M. No hits.
(WORCESTERSHIRE 0658/18).

DUNSTER GRANGE. 56.50N., 20.25W. DUNSTER GRANGE, submarine on surface, visibility good, cloud base 3000 feet.
(Portishead Radio 1050/18).

S S S S 56.50 N., 20.12 W. DUNSTER GRANGE sighted conning tower, visibility good.
(Bank ship, Scapa, T.O.R. 1126/18).

Following intercepted by Box 25 Barnet on 6680 K/Cs. at 1106 G.M.T. (Begins)
S S S 56.10N., 20.25W DUNSTER GRANGE submarine on surface. Visibility good. Cloud base 3000 feet. T.O.O. 1051/18(Ends.)
Also the following (Begins)
S S S Corrected position of DUNSTER GRANGE 56.50 N., 20.25 W. T.O.O. 1205/18 (Ends)
(F.O. Humber 1326/18 to Adty).

PENDRECHT. Following read. Position 59.05 N. 17.48 W., approx. PENDRECHT torpedoed.
(Lyness W/T 1434/18).

Detach one ship to proceed to position of PENDRECHT torpedoed in 059° 05'N., 017° 48' W., at 1535.
(C.in C. W.A. 1555/18 to SCIMITAR).

Following read. Submarine Raider Signal. 59.05 N., 17.48 W., PENDRECHT torpedoed, lost two lifeboats asking immediate assistance, only one lifeboat left.
(Lyness W/T T.O.R. 1605/18).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.12.40.
Wednesday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Have been detached in accordance with your 1555/18 to SCIMITAR.
(ARABIS 1740/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

DALFONN. Following read. 58.28 N., 18.11 W., DALFONN attacked by submarine, suspicious tanker flying Dutch flag in vicinity.
(Lyness W/T T.O.R. 1743/18).

NAPIER STAR. Following read. 58.58 N., 23.13 W., NAPIER STAR torpedoed.
(Lyness 1835/18).

Detach one ship to assistance of NAPIER STAR torpedoed in position 058° 58' N., 023° 13' W., at 1937. Report name when well clear of convoy.
(C.in C. W.A. 1955/18 to SCARBOROUGH).

Following from O.I.C. Resolution Island (Begins) 1834 G.M.T. " S S S 5858 N., ZZ. 13 W., NAPIER STAR torpedoed. Advise naval no bearings possible.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 2146/18).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.12.1940.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Submarines Attacked.

THUNDERBOLT. 15/12.

Successfully attacked Italian U-boat probable Italian S/M ARGO class escorted by 3 trawlers on 15/12 in 045° 25' N. 001° 23' W. Hunted 2 sloops p.m./17 in 045° 36' N. 001° 28 W. Three armed trawlers occasionally encountered by day and by night.
(THUNDERBOLT, 0645/18 to V.A.S.).

NEWTON PINE, Action with S/M 15/12.

NEWTON PINE's 2230/16. Have seen Master of NEWTON PINE, summary of report as follows. Ship 6½ knots had just completed zig zag alteration 35° to port when torpedo observed to break surface 1500, green 145 degs. Course was altered to port and torpedo passed 15 feet off starboard bow. Shortly after explosion was heard astern and submarine seen to have surfaced and firing from about 8000 yards thought to be twin gun flashes. As crew came on deck with lifebelts Master hoisted Ensign at masthead and all hands prepared to fight. NEWTON PINE opened fire at 6000 yards, and manoeuvred to keep U-boat astern. U-boat inclination about 120 degs. Ship fired shot for shot with U-boat. U-boat fire became very accurate and straddled ship for line, shot falling one each side about engine room. Master decided to alter course to throw out range and altered 60 degs. to starboard.
First salvo after alteration straddled ship just over and short but next three salvoes were well over. By this time ship's firing was right for line and 20th shot landed apparently on target blotting it out with spray and also black smoke. This was the only fall of shot at which smoke appeared as well. Next shot also in line blotted out target but no smoke. Submarine appeared to roll heavily towards ship then right herself much lower in water then disappeared from view of bridge crow's nest saw submarine's conning tower appearing just above water 2 or 3 times for 1½ to 2 minutes after. Submarine ceased fire and did not fire again after 20th shot from ship. Consider it probable that 20th shot hit submarine and possibly 21st damaged external tanks in any case and caused roll and partial submergence. Whether main hull damaged not possible to say but odd that submarine should break off

/ action ...

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. (Contd.)

NEWTON PINE, Action with S/M 16/12. (Contd.)

action immediately and by diving unless had to, range was 10,000 yards, sea calm. Important that area of this action should not be suggested and Master Woolner anxious that neither his name nor ship's be mentioned in broadcast or press. Consider he and ship put up fine performance.
(C.in C. S.A., 1947/S/18, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.12.1940. Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN (Contd.)

Submarines Reported.

1127. 56.50 N., 20.12 W., C/T sighted by DUNSTER GRANGE. (D.S. 470-.

1030. Off Gironde, indefinite position of Italian U-boat. (D.S. 470).

1543. A.F. message 59.05 N., 17.45 W. at 1443 G.M.T./18. (D.D.I.C., 1611/18).

1323. Bearings obtained at 1223 G.M.T./18 probably from a U/Boat between Sierra Leone and 30° W. longitude. (D.D.I.C. 1705/18).

1835. A.F. message 58.58 N., 23.13 W. at 1835 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2024/18).

D/F Bearing at 1005Z/18 indicates U.Boat may have been within 100 miles of line joining position 003° N. 010° W. and position 005° N. (?069°) West. Probability 30 per cent. Most likely position 004° N. 020° W. (C.in C. S.A. 1821Z/18).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

For information.

Italian
1 to westward of Madeira.
1 will shortly leave Azores area on being relieved from Bordeaux.
1 off Gironde at 1030/18 probably entering.
1 in 54° 14' N. 20° W. at 0700/18.
1 in 58° 50' N. 20° 12' W. at 1127/18.
1 between 54° N. and 56° N. 15° W. and 18° W.
1 may be between 52° N. and 53° N. 17° W. and 19° W.

German
No further report from South Atlantic. Possibly
1 S.W. of Ireland outward bound.
1 north of 55° N. east of 14° W. and probably west of 10° W.
1 west of 20° W. probably north of 57° N.
1 between 57° N. and 59° N. 15° W. and 18° W.
1 about 60° N. 20° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1322/18, V.A.S., 1532/18).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

SERPA PINTO.
MOUZINHO.

SERPA PINTO and MOUZINHO leave Casablanca for Lisbon on 20/12 and 23/12 respectively after transporting French nationals from Freetown at the request of British Government. Request patrols be instructed to give these ships free passage.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1628/18 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Intelligence Shipping and French Warships.

Following shipping movements have been given to me by a source: VILLE DE MAJUNGA from Madagascar with Governor-General Caykosti on board is now at Casablanca. She will proceed to Marseilles any time. Submarine which torpedoed RESOLUTION (the BEVEZIERS is at Casablanca. ss COMPIEGNE arrived at Casablanca with a cargo of sugar from Lisbon. ss MARRAKESH left Casablanca for Dakar on 17/12 with 46 officers 372 non-commissioned officers and 400 men all aviation personnel: please see my tel. 0912 to F.O. Para 2 of 15/12.
(Originator not stated Received via Gibraltar W/T, 0945/18 to Admty and C. in C. S.A.)

Dakar.

My 1617/3 (report of warships and Naval units of Dakar). Following information from Norwegian and Belgian Seamen escaped Dakar 8/12 believed reliable. Warships then in Port RICHELIEU, GEORGES LEYGUES, MONTCALM, Destroyers LE FANTASQUE, MALIN LE HARDI, X 101 102 82, A 86 56 52 DENTRECASTEAUX, Submarines 4 large 3 medium 1 very small. Ref. para 3 information confirmed that another small Submarine of different type arrived and left around 24/11.
(C. in C. S.A. 1617/18 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Submarine Patrols.

My 1026/14 UPHOLDER UNIQUE USK have been ordered to leave their patrols after dark on 18/12 to proceed to Gibraltar joining route ordered in my 1258/5 at position C. reporting e t a at E to F.O.C.N.A. 12 hours beforehand. Submarines will be considered as entering M.A. Command at 001/21.
(V.A.S. 0112/18 to C. in C. Med).

RENOWN, ARK ROYAL.

H.O. 4 (a) 0800/19 (b) RENOWN 0000 ARK ROYAL 0200 or later (c) RENOWN. RENOWN's position course and speed at 1930 A 036° 00' 011° 11' 092° 23 knots. (S.O. Force H. 1501/18 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Daily Summary Operations.

2 routine A.S. Patrols.
(200 Group 1700/18 to Air Min.).

VIDETTE, CIRCASSIA.

Gibraltar departure 2030/18 VIDETTE to rendezvous CIRCASSIA.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 2048/18).

BERWICK.

Steer to the northward. Instructions follow.
(V.C.N.S. 2350/18 to BERWICK).

South Atlantic.

Libreville Patrol.

Your 1815/14. Your difficulties are fully realised. Until DRAGON and DUNEDIN become available the Duala patrol must be vacated temporarily as necessary for other commitments.
(D.O.D. (F). 0004/18 to C. in C. S.A.).

W.S.5A.

Your 2017/14 total arriving Freetown from U.K. in NEURALIA 1765 of which 1600 are for Freetown 160 for Takoradi and 5 for Lagos. Presume can arrange for onward conveyance of personnel for Takoradi and Lagos.
(D. of S.T. 0346/18 to C. in C. S.A.).

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA

Simonstown arrival 18/12.
(N.O.I.C.Simonstown 0930/18).

/Raider.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued).

Raider actions. ALCANTARA. CARNARVON CASTLE.

Your 1204/13 re report on encounter between ALCANTARA and CARNARVON CASTLE and raiders. In both cases A.M.Cs. were patrolling areas near lines of traffic. These patrols were ordered in relation to general plan of patrolling local areas which is varied in accordance with ships and information available. In the case of ALCANTARA, R.A.S.A.D. considered indications D/F and other were that a raider was bound for South Atlantic, tendency appeared to be for raiders to strike in Pernambuco area first, and patrols of which ALCANTAR was one were ordered on this basis. ALCANTARA was subsequently ordered south as the further movements of the raider were anticipated. No detailed information re CARNARVON CASTLE but patrol was ordered on the same general principle. Contacts were not therefore the result of organised search or quite fortuitous, but rather the result of careful anticipation of the possibilities and probabilities by R.A.S.A.D. and C. in C. S.A. in selecting areas in which to operate which met with deserved good fortune. (C. in C. S.A. 0917N/18 to C. in C. E. Indies).

CARNARVON CASTLE.

Your 1359/13 re Enemy reports transmitted by CARNARVON CASTLE request your remarks without breaking W/T silence as to reason of no reception of these signals. (C. in C. S.A. 1106/18 to S.O.S.A. Div).

Convoys.

Your 2219/26/11 Paragraph (2) (a) and your 2150/14/12 Paragraph (VII) Presumed speed of advance of fast and slow groups combined 10½ knots. (C. in C. S.A. 1157/18 to Admty).

Enemy Unit.

Bearings obtained at 2259/17 G.M.T. on 5310 Kcs. Probably from enemy unit in vicinity of 7°N. 30°W. (D.D.I.C. 1025/18).

Surface Raider.

D/F bearings - indicate presence of German surface unit probably on great circle Bermuda-Capetown at 2257Z/17. (C. in C. S.A. 1309N/18 to R.A.S.A.D).

DUQUESA. Raider Report.

British 8651 tons Following has been read. DUQUESA 00° 57'N, 22° 42'W (Freetown W/T T.O.R. 1401Z/18 to Flowerdown W/T).

/Reference.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued).

DUQUESA
Raider Report.
(contd);

Reference RRR report from DUQUESA. Further signal received much mutilated (?gives) position 000° 57' N 022° 42'W word battleship quite clear and letters P.O.Z. C.K preceeding. Considered pocket battleship. NEPTUNE and DORSETSHIRE in harbour told to raise steam with all despatch.
(C. in C. S.A. 1327N/18 to Admty).

NEPTUNE.
DORSETSHIRE.

Proceed with NEPTUNE and DORSETSHIRE for 008° N (? 021°) W to act as cover for trade routes to North and North Eastward. If no other instructions or information received carry out search in that area and to North and North Eastward of raider's reported position.
(C. in C. S.A. 1531/18 to S.O. Force M)

Departure 1700/18 S.O. Force M. in NEPTUNE with DORSETSHIRE in accordance with C. in C. South Atlantic's 1531/18 (Force M. to proceed to act as cover for trade routes and to carry out search eastward of raider's position).
(S.O. (I) Freetown 1851N/18 to Admty).

Your 1327/18 NEPTUNE and DORSETSHIRE are at your disposal for raider hunting until further orders.
(D.O.D. (F) 1907/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

At 1400Z/18 RRRR message received from DUQUESA, reporting being shelled in 00° 57'N 22° 42'W. Further much mutilated signal was received with word battleship quite clear and letters POZCK proceeding. Considered that raider is ADMIRAL SCHEER.
(D.D.I.C. 1954/18 to "A" Message H.and A)

HERMES.
DRAGON.

Proceed ST. Helena with despatch to fuel.
(C. in C. S.A. 1335/18).

ENTERPRISE.

Rejoin R.A. S.A.D.
(C. in C. S.A. 1345/18 to ENTERPRISE).

R/V with CUMBERLAND in 028°S 045° W at 1600Z/20.
(R.A.S.A.D. 2108/18 to ENTERPRISE).

/WILLEM.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued).

WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN

My 0703/13 Onward programme of Netherlands Minelayer WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN subject to satisfactory weather conditions is as follows. Capetown leave P.M. 22 etc.

Requirements at Durban and Mauritius. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1330Z/18).

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

Arrived Montevideo 1000/18 departs on patrol 0930/19.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1501Z/18 to Admty)

Foreign Legion Movement.

Following from Col. Williams Captain (?Porter) suggests legion should proceed direct to Cape after calling at Pointe Noire. If transhipment military this could then take place at Cape which is not much further from Pointe Noire than Freetown. (Commander Nigeria Area, Lagos 1735/16 to W.O.).

Shipping Interception.

Your 1325Z/14 (Re interception of South American owned ships on coastal groups) H.M. Ambassador endorses policy outlined in your 0908Z/6 and has repeated it to F.O. While recent incidents are still fresh he would deprecate any interception of neutral vessels within zone off Brazilian coast except in case of war necessity. He appreciates that action in zone in the case of French s.s. KATIOLA may be necessary but hopes that if possible, there will be no further incident off Brazilian Coast for present.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1740/18 to R.A.S.A.D).

Walvis Bay.

Your 2318/15. N.C.S. Staff will be sent to Walvis Bay as soon as practicable Question of A/S and M/S vessels is being taken up with D.S.T.D. Request information whether Union Government should be asked to provide (A) Examination service (B) port war signal station (C) fixed defences.
(S.N.O. Simonstown 1927B/18 to Admty).

NEWTON PINE.

Report of attack by S/M on 13/12 and counter attack by NEWTON PINE - C. in C S.A. 1947M/18 (see U-Boat Campaign).

/BALUCHISTAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued.

BALUCHISTAN.

Reference A.I.G. 37 622 A T.O.O. 1954/1 Departure 18/12 1800 G.M.T. British ship BALUCHISTAN, Capetown (N.C.S.O. Port of Spain 2333/18).

ASPHODEL.
CALENDULA.

My 1817/14 para (E). Am informed Consular Shipping Adviser Ponta Delgarda that have received information of Corvettes ASPHODEL and CALENDULA left that port 0930/16. They will not therefore arrive Freetown until about 24/12 and escort will not be available for "SHRAPNEL" until after that date.
(C. in C. S.A. 1059N/18 to Admty).

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MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19. 12. 40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Dummy S/M's. at Harwich.

3 Dummy submarines moored at Harwich have been severely damaged in recent Gale and are now beached. It is estimated that cost of repairs would be very heavy. With departure of submarines from Harwich the primary purpose of these dummies no longer exists. Propose subject to approval to break them up and release valuable material for other requirements.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1802/19 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/19. (D.C. 1153/19.) At 2330/19. (D.C. 2350/19.)

Flare Signals. for Invasion.

Intend to hold demonstration of Green and Red Flares now in force to give warning of Invasion from 3 vessels off Dungeness, Dover, and Hastings at 1800 on a selected day not before 21/12. Request concurrence. (V.A. Dover 1903/19 to C.O.D's)

Movements.

BONAVENTURE.

Sailed to R/V as by F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1030/17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0830/19.)

SKATE, SARDONYX.

Arrived 16/12.(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0957/19.)

SALOPIAN.

Left Reykjavik. E.T.A. Clyde 1200/22. (F.O. Iceland 1030/19.)

CLYDE.

All movement on Clyde held up by fog. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1252/19.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines. 3 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S.1520/19.)

EGLINTON, QUORN.

Sailed 1702. (F.O.I.C. 1707/19.)

NIGERIA.)
AURORA.)

NIGERIA to sail to R/V with AURORA in 310° Dunnet Head 10 miles at 1900/20 and carry out W.P. 51. serial 45.(C.S.18.1927/19.)

WHITEHALL.
WINCHELSEA.
VANQUISHER.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2358/19.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19. 12. 40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

PUNJABI. Arrived Plymouth 1100.(C. in C.W.A.2328/19.)
JERSEY.
JUPITER.

Operations.

Operation SPECIMEN. Arrived PEGASUS. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0722/19.) Your 1904/18.(re boiler cleaning of PEGASUS.) Approved. (V.C.N.S. 1501/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

Western Patrol. CAMITO relieve MARSDALE in areas Q3,R3,S3, arriving S.3. at 1200/20, by which time MARSDALE is to be clear of that area. (F.O.C.N.P. 1040/19. to Western Patrol.)

Submarines.

PROTEUS. Proceed on surface at best speed to R/V before dark with KINGSTON AMBER in 50° 31' N. 0° 40' W. (S.S. 1446/19 to PROTEUS). KINGSTON CEYLONITE will R/V with you in 50° 31'N.0° 40' W. at 0845/19. (S.S.1501/18 to PROTEUS.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1607/19.)

SNAPOLF. Intend to sail ss by your 0913/19. Expect depart 1800/20 unescorted to arrive 50° 31' N. 0° 40' W. at 0845/21. Route. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1615/19 to S.S.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/20.(V.A.S. 1647/19.)

L.43. In Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1739/19.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Being flown today TROST, STAB., S.A.2, and S.A.3. MUGGY will not be flown.
C. in C. Rosyth 0750/19.) Blenheim Fighters flying from Dyce to Flamborough Head and return. (C. in C. Rosyth 0832/19.)
S.9. is being flown P.M. today.(C. in C. Rosyth 0836/19.).
My 1056/18. (Norwegian Coast Offensive Patrol.) Weather unsuitable. Intend to postpone. (Hatston 0905/19 to A.C.O.S.)
My 0750/19. S.A.3 cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1038/19 to C. in C. H.F.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19. 12. 40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. My 2244/30/11. Patrol COLDSNAP has been cancelled.(C. in C. Rosyth 1730/19 to C. in C. HF.)
My 0905/19. Propose to carry out this operation as soon as weather permits. (Hatston 1851 to A.C.C.S.)
(Patrol FAIR. A/S. Patrol.) Cancel my 1300/17 and my 0212/12. The following Patrol FAIR will be flown during moonlight or on clear nights beginning 20/12. Cross-over Patrol 59° 52' N. 1° 27'W. to 59° 52' N. 1° 8'W. to 58° 35'N. 1°27'W to 58° 35'N. 1° 8'W.(C. in C. Rosyth 1758/19.)

Lorient. Brest. 53 Sqdn. to attack S/M's at Lorient. 59 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's and Dockyard at Brest. (H.Q.C.C.1145/19 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.) 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's at Lorient. (H.Q.C.C.1146/19.)

Kites. Operational Heights. The maximum operational height to which balloons will be flown is to be increased to 6000 ft. Kites will, however, be flown up to 10,000 ft. within the Portsmouth and Plymouth barrages. Request all concerned be notified forthwith. This increase in operational height will not be brought into force until all Flying Units have received adequate warning. Request addressees signal the Air Ministry immediately they are satisfied that this has been done. Air Ministry signal X.991 19/12 refers.
(Air Ministry 1106/19. to All Home Commands)

Enemy Air Activity.

ISOLDA. (Swedish, 261 Tons.) Bombed and sunk off South Wexford Coast vicinity Barrels light vessel this morning. Six ratings killed.(Irishlights, Dublin 2123/19.)

Thames Estuary. Request following information as to report that 45 Mines were recently dropped in area Yantlet Gate-Medway Gate. (C. in C. Nore 0002/19 to Adty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames Estuary. In view of recent heavy mine laying in area Eastern End Yantlet Channel Thames Estuary would there be any objection to trial, if technically practical, of Naval 20 barrel U.P. weapon mounted in vessels afloat and linked with local A.A. communication system.
(A.C.N.S.H. 0003/19 to Air Ministry.)

Thames and Medway. Cancel my 1001/17. Thames and Medway are now open. Vessels to use only southern half of Thames Gate. (Cdre.Sheerness 1113/19 to Adty.)

INTREPID. Adty. 1222/15. Intend sail 0845/20.E.T.A. Humber 1500/20. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1145/19 and 1357/19.)

Thames Estuary. Your 1310/18. (A) When s.s. INVER was mined near North Thames Gate, a mine exploded at same time close to DELPHINUS not operating near No.1. Yantlet buoy.

(B) When SUNLIGHT detonated a mine in 320° No. 3 Medway Channel buoy, another mine detonated in 235° Nore Lt. Vessel 7 cables.

(C) Two explosions occurred near s.s. ACCLIVITY and s.s. SEDULITY both at anchor as reported in N.C.S.O. Thames 1117/18 the mines being about one cable apart. Both masters of these vessels confirm that the interval between the two explosions was sixty to ninety seconds. The evidence in these three cases is reliable. It is estimated from reports that about twelve single explosions of an apparently spontaneous character occurred during the day, in some cases with no ships near them including one seen to explode off Garrison Point during night and one off No. 1 Yantlet buoy by day.
C. in C. Nore 1216/17 to Adty.)

Dover Area. Sweeping carried out to 0800/19 December. In Q.Z.S. 105, A buoy to number 4 buoy 90° to total width of 5 cables. Detonated two mines in sweep and two sweeps cut by explosive cutters.
Exploratory sweep number 4 buoy to Sandhead buoy negative result.
(V.A. Dover 1235/19.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Operation. To be carried out on Night 20/21, or as soon after as possible. From 50° 56' N. 4° 55'W. in direction 299° for 5 miles, and thence 090° for 2 miles. (V.C.N.S. 1342/19 to C. in C.W.A. and ADVENTURE.)

Thames Estuary. FENTONIAN reports one Mine detonated by S.A. gear at 1325 in 108° No. 2 Yantlet Buoy 2 cables. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1558/19 and 1806/19 to C. in C.W.A. and ADVENTURE.)

Off Stavanger. Your 2329/17. Intended to cancel Q.Z.X.42 Prefer following position for laying. INTREPID and ICARUS have been directed by Adty. 1137/18 to be ready to sail for Scapa by 22/12. If you concur request you will issue operation orders. (A.C.N.S.H.1755/19 to C. in C. H.F.)

TWEEGEBRODERS. (Dutch Schuyt) Mined close to No. 2 Yantlet Buoy and beached on Shoebury Sand. Crew standing by. No casualties reported. (N.C.S.O. Thames 2012/19.

ARINIA. (British Tanker, 8024 Tons.) Mined and sunk on fire in about 2 - 3 cables North of Nore Light Vessel. Believed one survivor landed at Sheerness. (N.C.S.O. Thames 2012/19. to C. in C. Nore.)

ANOSA. (Norwegian, 5043 Tons.) Damaged at 0830 today by underwater Explosion in 130° Bull Fort 3 to 4 cables. Now docked safely at Immingham. (F.O. Humber 2346/19.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence

Walcheren.
Hook of Holland. Several M/V's seen at 1200. A/C. report. (Chatham A.C.H.Q.1440/19.)

Belle Ile. One Destroyer, one M/V, and one Warship seen by A/C. at 1245.(St. Eval 1619/19.)

Bordeaux. First class observer in Bordeaux 15/12 reports 2 Italian S/Ms and S/M parent ship DE GRASSE sunk and 7 other S/Ms in wet dock. Belgian S S BAUDOUINVILLE 10,000 tons moored alongside Place Des Quinconses is S/M depot ship where S/M officers live. All other Italian and German officers live in Hotel Splendide on same Place. In last raid bomb killed 2 sentries at hotel entrance but (?hotel) undamaged. Aerodrome temporarily unserviceable, all aircraft moved to Cassaux (Cussac)(?) Germans are very afraid for both bridges and also for power house on opposite bank from town above railway bridge. This provides all power for the district and is most conspicuous target.(A.2.) (M.A. Madrid 1845/19 to D.M.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19. 12. 40.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

ST. ALBANS. Returned with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0151/19.)

CASTLETON. Request as to time ship will remain at Portsmouth. Defects will require about 6 weeks.(A.S.Portsmouth 1040/19) Ship sent to Portsmouth for Stage 2 refit. Stay at Portsmouth is governed by this (D.O.D.H. 1823/19 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

HEPBURN. (British, 927 Tons) In collision with Blyth Examination Vessel FANO. Estimate 8 days to repair damage.(F.O.I.C. Blyth 1250/19.)

Boats and Raft. Patrol A/C on ST2 reports sighting a waterlogged lifeboat, a white raft, and a broken boat in various positions 59° 35' N. 6° 36' W, 59° 40'6° 10' 59° 48' N 5° 32' W between 1100 and 1132. Area carefully searched but no persons seen.
(A.C.O.S. 2001/19 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys	Estimated positions 0900/19 (D.T.D., 1119/19 to C. in C., H.F.)
W.N. 56 O	1300/19, escort GAVOTTE. 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1114/19)
O.B. 261	Sailed 1018/19. 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1135/19) List (1137/19)
S.C. 15	Commodore in DARTFORD with 5 ships ordered to join H.G. 48 at 1100/20. (C. in C., W.A. 1404/19 to DEPTFORD, SCARBOROUGH, etc.)
E.N. 44.	2230/20. Escorts HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH, additional escort WOLFHOUND. 16 ships (12 overseas) Codes, Paddle Monitor (L portion) Mixture (O Portion) (N.C.S.O. Methil 1704/19)
S.C. 16	Sailed from Halifax 15/12. Route. Covered by ROYAL SOVEREIGN to about 30° W. LEOPOLDVILLE, who sailed with W.S. 5.A., to meet ROYAL SOVEREIGN to proceed to Halifax. (D.O.D. (H) 2223/19)
S.L. 57 O.B. 258 }	Arriving 1600/19 with 2 ships ex S.L. 57 and 1 ship ex O.B. 258 with engine trouble (WINCHELSEA 0312/19 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)
E.N. 44 W.N. 57 }	Sail 1430/20 for Methil WOLFHOUND to act as A/A escort to E.N. 44. Sailing 2230/20 on meeting transfer to W.N. 57 due Cape Wrath 0130/23 and Duncansby 1530/23. (C. in C., Rosyth 1159/19 to WOLFHOUND)
C.W. 20	Intend sail BERKELEY and CLEVELAND at 2330/19 for Sheerness for escort of C.W. 20 arriving Sandhead Buoy 0730/20 and Sheerness 1230/20. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1307/19)
O.B.O. 261	Expect sail O.B.O. 261, 0030/20. Escort COLUMBINE 10 ship (N.C.S.O. Oban 1501/19 to C. in C., W.A.)
W.N. 55	57° 52' N., 08° 15' W., at 1503/19 (A.C.O.S.
O.B.M. 262	Sailed 1652/19. Escort LEEDS UNITED. 10 ships (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1742/19 to C. in C., W.A.)
F.N. 63	Intend sailing SELKIRK 20/12 to join F.N. 63 off Harwich for Grimsby (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1835/19 to F.O.I C. Humber)

/E.N. 44.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.

Shipping

E.N. 43.	Sailed 1830/19. Escorts MORRIS DANCE, DRANCEY (trawlers) additional escort FLEETWOOD (sloop) 19 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1939/19 to A.C.W.A.)
F.S. 63.	38 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0948/19)
C.E. 19	Passed Dover 0630. No shelling. (V.A. Dover, 0655/19 to Admty.)
S.C. 16 H.X. 97	You may pass convoy S.C. 16 (?unescorted) in abo t longitude 039° 00' W. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is providing cover for this convoy. Corvette HEPATICA is in company with convoy H.X. (? 97) (R.A. 3 B.S. 1056/19 to WORCESTERSHIRE)
W.N. 56	1231/19. H.M.Trawler PERQUETTE, 4 ships. Naval commodore with W.N.O. joining at R/V 1230/20 GABOTTE senior officer escorting W.N.O. from Bloody Bay to R/V thence Methil. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1257/19)
W.N. 56	Sailed W.N. 56 (O) Code word Limited 1330/16 escort H.M.T.GAVOTTE. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1631/19)
LA PAMPA AGRA	Have lost contact. Area searched for 2 hours position, course and speed 056° 22' N., 009° 07' W., 122° 15 knots. Request instructions. Was escorting ships LA PAMPA, AGRA. (TRILIUM 2100/19 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Troop Convoys

W.S. 5 A.	My 2350/18. The following did not sail, BENRINNES ADVISER MARSEER BARRISTER H.M.S. ST ALBANS returned with defects WORCESTER pass to Commodore. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0151/19)
	Sailed BATH and ST MARYS to join W.S. 5 A (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1010/19 to C. in C., W.A.)
	Intend sailing Clyde portion of convoy W.S. 5 A fast with ARGUS NAIAD escorted by OTTAWA ST LAURENT PIORUN at 2100/19 in accordance with F.O.I.C. 2210/17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1053/19 to Admty.)

/2330/18 .....

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

W.S. 5 A Contd.

2330/18 sailed MONTGOMERY escorting M/V STENTOR and CITY OF DERBY to join W.S. 5A MONTGOMERY continues with convoy. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1121/19 to C. in C., W.A.)

Following ships unable to sail from Clyde with W.S. 5 (A):- ADVISER, BARRISTER, MAHSEER and BENRINNES. If ready, and providing they can make good 14 knots, ADVISER and BARRISTER should be sailed with W.S. 5 (A) Fast, a reduction of ½ knot in speed of convoy to R/V "X" being accepted. MAHSEER and BENRINNES should be sailed for Freetown in the next available O.B. Convoy. (D.O.D. (H) 1215/19 to C. in C., W.A.)

DUNEDIN and M.T. ships CLAN CUMMING, EMPIRE SONG, CLAN MACDONALD, ESSEX and NORTHERN PRINCE are to leave convoy W.S.5.A and proceed through Straits of Gibraltar (date) DUNEDIN to part company as ordered by F.O. Force 'H' and proceed to Gibraltar to fuel and then to proceed Freetown. (D.O.D. (F) 1322/19 to DUNEDIN)

Operation "Excess"

BONAVENTURE and ARGUS are to leave convoy W.S. 5 A when necessary (but not before BERWICK joins) so as to reach Gibraltar (date)
On completion of Operation "Excess" BONAVENTURE is to accompany ARGUS and JAGUAR to U.K.
Convoy S.L. 58 S is expected to be in position 47 degrees, 23½ degrees on 23rd December and SS DURHAM in 46½ degrees, 23 degrees on 24th December.
Expected positions of friendly submarines at 1200 24th December. TRIDENT 39° N., 18° W 240° 9 knots.
CACHALOT 30½° N., 23° W., 060° 9 knots.
(D.O.D. (F) to BONAVENTURE) (1323/19)

Admty. 1323/19, para. 1. Consider it preferable that ARGUS should act as proposed in para 4 of my 0915/13 (S.O. Force H., 2358/19 to Admty.)

My 1542/19 as HIGHLANDER has already been nominated as Senior Officer of escort request that on this occasion you will place yourself under his orders. (C. in C., W.A., 1540/19 to LE TRIOMPHANT)

/LE TRIOMPHANT....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

W.S. 5 A. Contd.

LE TRIOMPHANT to sail with Clyde portion of W.S. 5 A fast. VESPER to join convoy from Londonderry. (C. in C., W.A., 1542/19 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Sailed Liverpool section W.S.5 A (Fast) with FURIOUS escorted by KELVIN, BEVERLEY and KIPLING. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool. 1730/19 to Admty.)

Sailed Clyde portion W.S. 5 A fast with C.S. 15 in NAIAD and ARGUS escorted by OTTAWA, ST LAURENT, PIORUN, LE TRIOMPHANT in accordance with F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2210/19 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French S/M's.

French N.A. on behalf of French Admiralty states (begins). Three more French S/Ms escorted by one destroyer will pass Gibraltar westward December 22nd between 1000 and 1200.
Object is to relieve S/Ms now in Atlantic which will begin to enter Mediterranean about end of December.
East movement will be advised (ends).
N.A. Madrid, 1202/19 to Admty.)

SERPA PINTO, MOUZINHO

B.C.S.O. Lisbon 1628/18. (SERPA PINTO and MOUZINHO transporting French nationals.) Request instructions as I am unaware at present of any guarantee to prevent these vessels carrying cargo and/or enemy nationals from Casablanca to Lisbon.
(F.O.C. N.A. 1210/19 to Admty.)

French Convoy.

Gibraltar 1050/19 French sloop M/S COMMANDANT DELAGE escorting BOURGES, OUED TIFLET, VILLE DE STRASBOURG, BANFORA, passed east to west. 1235/19 French armed trawler ASPIRANT BRUN escorting CHAMPAGNE, VILLE DE TAMATAVE passed west to east. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1537/19 to Admty.)
North Atlantic.

Azores Patrol.

My 1900/8 paras. 4 and 5.
Positions at 1200/19 estimated as follows (S.L. 58 and KENT, S.L. 58 Slow, and BERWICK returning to Gibraltar). (D.O.D.(P) 1146/19 to CACHALOT, TRIDENT).

Operation "Ration".

Will you have sufficient destroyers to carry out operation RATION whilst Force H is away from Gibraltar?
(1 S.L. 0156/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 0156/19. No. Only one destroyer will be left for all duties.
Your 2100/13. As suggested in my 0110/14 the chances of intercepting French escorted convoy from Casablanca to Mediterranean appear remote. Most favourable chance would appear to be a Lisbon-Casablanca convoy. Timely notice of departure should be available from Lisbon.
Opportunity to provide overwhelming force might be taken by use of ships returning from Azores patrol.
Signals referred to have been passed to S.O. Force "H".
(F.O.C.N.A. 1110/19, to Admty.)

Force H.

Gibraltar arrivals 19/12 1000, S.O. Force "H" in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, FAULKNOR, FURY, FORESTER, DUNCAN, IXIS, ENCOUNTER. (S.O.I., Gib., 1040/19 to Admty.)

/ BERWICK ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

BERWICK. Now that BERWICK has been withdrawn from Azores patrol it is requested that DORSETSHIRE be moved to patrol in areas F.2, G.2, H.2.

DERBYSHIRE
CIRCASSIA F.O.C.N.P. 1130/18 not to S.O. Force H. and 1040/18. It is considered desirable that areas Q.3 R.3. S.3 should be patrolled. It is requested that CIRCASSIA be sailed for patrol in these areas when ready.
(D.O.D.(F) 1715/18 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Air Report. Daily summary operations. 2 routine A/S patrols. 2 Surface Reccos. to East 1 co-operating with FIREDRAKE in attempt to intercept German ship which possibly left Malaga during night. No interception. 1 Surface recco. to West. Area covered 7° West to 2° West.
(200 Group, 1700/19).

Conference held to discuss additional measures for security of Naval harbour. Following proposals put forward for consideration.
Indicator nets to be placed between boom vessels outside the entrances.
Laying of indicator loops and loop mines outside the entrances.
Your 2058/1/12. Request I may be informed when A/S motor launches are expected to be available. (F.O.C.N.A., 1800/19 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

FORMIDABLE.
NORFOLK. FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK will not join Convoy and are to proceed forthwith, passing to Westward of R/V "X" and of Azores, and carrying out a sweep for pocket battleship en route to Freetown as arranged by C.in C. S.A.
DORSETSHIRE will probably join Force K in lieu of BERWICK.
(D.O.D.(F) 0005/19 to F.O. Force K.)

Destroyers. A.T. 0005/19. Request you will sail two destroyers to Freetown as required by C.in C. S.A. These destroyers will also be required for FURIOUS - vide A.T. 1742/18 para. 2. (D.O.D.(F) 0020/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Reference Admty. 0020/19. In view of forthcoming operation in Mediterranean requiring all available destroyers can you accept 2 destroyers leaving Gibraltar for Freetown a.m.26/12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1030/19 to C.in C. S.A.).

/ SAVORGNAN-DE-BRAZZA .....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued).

SAVORGNAN-DE-BRAZZA. Arrived Simonstown 1130/18 and will sail 1130/20 for Durban. C. in C. S.A. requested to inform Marine, Pointe Noire.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1057B/19 to C. in C.S. A.).

Walvis Bay. My 1927B/18 regarding Walvis Bay para. 4 delete reference to 60 pounder Howitzers. These have been replaced by two 12 pounders Guns.
(S.N.O. Simonstown 1305B/19 to Admty).

BRIDGEWATER. Arrival 1200/19 BRIDGEWATER (with ENGLISH TRADER).
(S.O.I. Freetown 1355N/19).

DELHI. Lagos departure 0900/19 DELHI for
(S.O.I. Freetown 1357N/19).

WHALERS. Arrival 1115/19 H.M. Whalers SWONA SKUDD 3,4 and 5.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1435N/19 to Admty).

FORT LAMY. Your 1515/18 para 2 (not to C. in C. S.A.). Confirm FORT LAMY carrying guns as mentioned in my 1738/9. She arrived Duala 19/12 and will continue South as soon as passengers and cargo of cattle and foodstuffs have been embarked. With re-opening of Gabon there is a large outstanding military and civil traffic to clear.
(N.C.S.O. Duala 1501/19 to M. of Shipping).

Cape Agulhas Shipping Route. Attention of N.C.S.O.'s drawn to fact that although merchant ships should normally be routed 40 miles south of Cape Agulhas there are cases where Masters of low powered and heavy laden ships consider their ships endangered by so doing owing to prevailing weather conditions. Found in such cases the masters have to cross about 15 miles south of Cape Agulhas. This is the most dangerous area. Masters of such ships, including neutrals, if forced by the wester to keep to the northward, should pass either (a) within 5 miles of Cape Agulhas or (b) 25 miles off Cape Agulhas.

/Masters.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued).

Cape Agulhas Shipping Route. (contd).

Masters should be warned that this deviation from their toute is only to be made if absolutely necessary. If any ship is reported making such deviation N.C.S.O. at the next port of call is to make a full investigation.

Masters are to be made to realize the danger of mines again being laid off Cape Agulhas.
(S.O.I. Capetown 15248/19).

GUINEA.

Mast 92. Your Mast 166. I have instructed Companhia begins:- To send Portugues Ship GUINEA to Freetown arriving about 30/12. She can carry approximately 330 passengers. Is a further ship required (?).
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1616/19 to Admty for M. of Shipping).

Belligerent ship in Argentine ports.

H.M. Ambassador has informed me Argentine Minister of Agriculture will issue this evening decree taking power to requisition as necessary belligerent ships taking refuge in Argentine ports with object (of) ? acquiring necessary tonnage to export Argentine products.
(B.N.A. Buenos Aires, 1947/19 to D.N.I.

Enemy Auxiliary.

Indication of enemy auxiliary on line 310° from Ascension on 18/12 this might have been in 001° N 027° W and be moving to meet Warship Raider. HERMES and Force L including PRETORIA CASTLE to proceed and search through J.35 (b) and in I 35 sres on Western edge of Gape - U.K. route and possible fuelling areas then through J. 35 to St. Helena for fuel. NEPTUNE and DORSETSHIRE after searching as directed in my 1531/18 proceed and search throug H.34 and I 34 areas on South America St. Vincent and Freetown route and possible fuelling areas. Then to Freetown for fuel when required.
(C. in C. S.A. 2015W/19 to S.O. Force M. HERMES.).

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (continued).

NEWCASTLE.
ARNDALE.
ENTERPRISE.
CARNARVON CASTLE.

Proceed so as to pick up Oiler ARNDALE who arrives at South end of sea rendezvous "PERCIVAL" (betwegn 024° 20'S. 044°10'W and 024° 55'S 045° 00'W) at daylight 21/12 and complete with fuel from ship at Lam or Pig. as quickly as possible. On completion leave ARNDALE at anchor to fuel ENTERPRISE and join me in position 025° W reporting expected time of arrival as soon as known and stating position of ARNDALE.
(R.A.S.A.D. 2115Z/18 to NEWCASTLE).

Oiler ARNDALE (?inside) position (?PERCIVAL) and "LAM". She is fitted for stirrup fuellings with either five inch or 3½ inch hose. If possible without delay transfer CARNARVON CASTLE's ammunition to ARNDALE.
(R.A.S.A.D. 2117Z/18 to NEWCASTLE).

Mediterranean.

Alexandria Raid.

Air raid at 0300, 1 machine. 8 bombs all in sea.
(R.A. Alexandria 1316/19).

SYDNEY.

Admty 0120/15. Before proceeding necessary for SYDNEY to have her rudder repaired, estimated time about 8 days. Intended to dock her at Malta about 23/12 (C. in C. Med 1233/19).
(Note Sydney is proceeding to Australia).

Dodecanese.

My 2214/13. Please confirm RHODES and KOS were intended in your 1651/11.
(D.N.I 0012/19 to C. in C. Med).
(Note:- Answered affirmatively by C. in C. Med. 2011/16 recd in Admty 1333/19).

Operation M.S.

Operational S/M Sanctuary in force in area 033° 08'N 013° 06'E 000922-36 for one S/M from 0001/20 T.O.O.
(V.A. Malta 0809/19).

Cased M/t for Egypt.

Following for Sir Edward Beatty, Arrangements for assembly of cased M/T on arrival Egypt necessitate majority of ships passing through Suez Canal. Loading of India cargo in these ships means either inconvenient and slow discharge at Suez or incurring heavy expense for canal dues. Request every endeavour be made to make up separate shipment of India cargo not in same vessels as cased M/T for Egypt. If this cannot be arranged, confine India cargo to as few ships as possible Agree to military.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1045/19 to N.O.I.C. ? Haifa).

/Air.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Air Report, Libya.

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY No. 192. up to 1200/19. Night 17/18 Dec. 9 Blenheims bombed enemy M.T. vehicles on road between Bardia and Tobruk. Day 18/12 No bombing operations. Hurricane offensive patrols covering our advanced troops and ships discharging at Sollum shot down 1 S. 79 in flames. Reconnaissance of coast revealed no movements between Bardia and Tobruk but 500 vehicles seen inside Bardia defences.

Greece. Day 18/12. Offensive reconnaissance Valona harbour by 3 Blenheims located large numbers of enemy shipping. Bombs fell near seaplance hangars setting 1 warehouse on fire. 1 Sunderland searched eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1147/19).

Fulmer Convoy.

A.282 19/12. Following signal from Takoradi is repeated for your information. A. 789 18/12. Third Fulmar Convoy left for Lagos en route Aboukir 1315 G.M.T. Expected time of arrival Aboukir 25/12. Time of origin 1330/18.
(Air Ministry 1200/19 to Admty).

Operations Communique.

Intend issuing following press communiqu
Units of Mediterranean Fleet carried out a sweept into the Adriatic on night of 18th/19th/12 to afford support to the Greeks. Advance forces swept up to a line joining Bari and Durazzo. Meanwhile units of the battle fleet bombarded the port and military establishments of Valona. Enemy batteries did not return fire until after the withdrawal began, firing only a few rounds. No enemy warships or merchant ships were found at sea during these operations.
(ii) One of our S/M's reports sinking on 13-14/12 one and possibly 2 laden merchant ships off Cape Spartivento, despite their escort and also a large laden southbound tanker off Cape Colonne on night of 15-16/12.
(iii) Off the coast of Libya, naval units and supporting units have been working in coOoperation with the Army and R.A.F. Sollum was bombarded as necessary to assist the army in its capture and similar support is now being given against Bardia. On 17/12 a close range attack was made inside Bardia Harbour during which 2 small ship were left sinking (C-in-C Med 1232/19 Admt

MOST SECRET.

19.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

NARVAL (lost) books compromised. UPRIGHT REGENT.

All books held by French Submarine NARVAL must be considered compromised. UPRIGHT is not to proceed to area T U but is to be ordered to operate in area South of 36° 00'N and West of 13° 00'E leaving area not earlier than p.m./22 to arrive at Malta a.m/24 REGENT is to be ordered to leave area Q.10 operate to south of latitude 33° 00' crossing that latitude p.m./22 to arrive Malta a.m./23. These instructions to submarines considered sufficiently broad to be safe to venture in compromised cypher. Warn all submarines at sea that their books are compromised. (C. in C. Med 1235/19 to V.A. Malta).

Destroyer Reliefs.

When AVON VALE, FARNDALE, SILVERTON, and ERIDGE are ready for service and worked up they will be sailed to the Red Sea to relieve K class destroyers. They will be fitted for tropical service. K. class destroyers should then relieve KIMBERLEY and MOHAWK who should rejoin the Home Fleet. N class destroyers will be sailed to reinforce Mediterranean Fleet in accordance with my 2309/8. (D.O.D. (H) 1506/19 to C. in C's).

Boom Defences.

Your 1247/14 Following Boom Defence Stores shipped in NALGURA, sailed 8/12. Additional five cables of A/T double will be shipped early January and further supplies as stores become available. ATREUS has sufficient material for two controlled minefields. (D.B.D. 1658/19 to C. in C. Med).

Sollum Defences.

Information just received from 202 group indicates two or three new gun emplacements in grid reference 52233875. (R.A.I. 1715/19 to N.O.I.C. Sollum).

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET.

19.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

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/Malta.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Malta Air Report.

Combined Services report Malta to 1700/19. All times G.M.T. 0714 - 1545 Sunderland on reconnaissance Western Ionian Sea for enemy naval and commercial units. Nil report. 0735 - 1231 Glenn Martin photographic reconnaissance Naples for naval and commercial units. One cruiser in dry dock - 9 M/V's over 5000 tons and some fleet auxilieries. 2 M/V's 10,000 tons anchored outside harbour entrance. 0812 - 1223 Glenn Matin photographic reconnaissance Taranto. Outer Harbour one battleship and eight M/V's over 5000 tons. Inner harbour twon cruisers and several small M/V's and fleet auxilieries. Night 18/19, 2225 2255 two separate raiders approached from the north. First raider dropped six bombs in sea off Grand harbour and left before illuminated by searchlights. Second raider dropped 4 bombs in sea and 2 others on land near Tigne. This raider was picked up by searchlights - identified S 79 and shot down in flames into sea by Hurricane. No damage or casualties by bombs. A.A. did not engage as fighter on patrol. No enemy survivors. 0045 - 0050 a.m. enemy aircraft approached from the north but turned back 15 miles from the island. Probably searching for destroyed aircraft. One Hurricane no interception. 2015, 1 Wellington despatched to attack Tripoli and report on weather conditions for larger attack. Unable to reach objective due weather. Operation cancelled. (H.Q.R.A.F. Malta 1700/19).

Valona bombed.

Operational Summary No. 35 A.M./19 9 aircraft No. 84 Squadron despatched on offensive recco., 6 to Valona 3 to Krionero. At Valona 11 ships seen in harbour. Much movement Terpelene to Valona Road towards Valona. Bombs dropped buildings North part of town, barracks, petrol dump and M.T. park, smoke seen from petrol dump and barracks. Only 2 Blenheims reached Drionero as 1 returned engine trouble. 7 ships seen in harbour. A direct hit was scored on road and some buildings North part of town, barracks, petrol dump and M.T. park, smoke seen from petrol dump and barracks. Only 2 Blenheims reached Krionero as 1 returned engine trouble. 7 ships seen in harbour. A direct hit was scored on road and some buildings set on fire H.Q.R.A.F. 1730.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Fast Personnel Convoys.

Admty 2324/14/11 and S.O. Force H. 2105/7/12. Requested you will signal your remarks as soon as practicable. The convoy would be in the order of 12 ships with a speed of 15 knots. (D.O.D. (f) 1842/19 to C. in C. Med).

Since 1842/19 from Admiralty states speed of convoy is 15 knots my 2105/7 does not appear to apply. (S.O. Force H. 2359/19 to C. in C. Med).

REGENT.

Leave area G. and operate to South of 033°North. (V.G. Malta 1921/19 to REGENT).

OTUS.

Return to Alexandria forthwith, arrive Sanctuary 0600/20. (Capt S.I. 2257/19 to OTUS).

Operations "Hide.". "Seek".

Following is outline of operation "HIDE", involving passage of MALAYA, two M/T ships and five destroyers (Force F) to Gibraltar.
Four destroyers of Force (H) (Group 2) leave Gibraltar for Eastward a.m./20 at economical speed, carrying out A/S sweep en route.
Remainder of Force (H) (Group 1) leave Gibraltar p.m./20 making feint to the westwards until after dark unless weather forecast necessitates earlier start.
Groups 1 and 2 rendezvous South of Balearic Islands 21/12, and weather permitting Group 2 proceeding night 21-22, to carry out operation "SEEK", which is moonlight and dawn search of area West of Skerki Bank to cover Force F between Skerki (?Channel) and 0900/22 rendezvous. (S.O. Force H, 2325/19 to C.in C. Med.).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CARTHAGE. To leave Durban a.m. 21/12 to patrol 030° S., 034° E., and 022° S., 040° E., to give cover to shipping; to leave later position p.m. 24/12 and proceed Colombo to arrive (date) Will arrive Bombay for docking and refit (date)
(C.in C. E.I. 1128Z/19 to CARTHAGE).

DAUNTLESS. At dusk 19/12 to proceed Penang at 15 knots unless otherwise ordered by C.in C. China.
(C.in C. E.I. 1126Z/19 to Force V).

Destroyers. Reliefs for "K" Class. (See Mediterranean 1306/19).

CAPETOWN. APPLELEAF. On completion of fuelling CAPETOWN to proceed on a course 270 from Addu Atoll at 12 knots until dusk 21/12 to give cover to shipping and then proceed Colombo through equatorial channel so as to arrive Colombo A.M.24/12. APPLELEAF is to leave Addu Atoll for Colombo on 22/12 as arranged by CAPETOWN so that cover to APPLELEAF is given on passage.
(C.in C. E.I. 1404Z/19 to Force V).

Aden Air Report. Summary 190 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500/19. 6 Blenheims 203 Sqdn. provided fighter escort three for convoy one and three for convoy Q/4A. Three Blenheims 203 Squadron carried out A.S. patrols covering latter convoy. Seven of these aircraft used advanced base Kamaran, three remaining overnight. 0338 to 0510 one Blenheim 8 Squadron searched Gulf of Aden for Tanker reported drifting with engines U/S. Tanker found being towed by tug. 0120 unidentified enemy aircraft believed one S.79 approached and encircled Aden remaining outside S.L. ring. One Gladiator 94 Sqdn., took off but made no interception through lack of S.L. location partly due cloud. Only two rounds indirect A.A. About seven bombs in East South and West. Seven H.E. and some incendiaries North of Sheikh Othman. Two flares used. No damage or casualties.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1553/19).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Free French Movement.

From De Schompre for De Gaulle No.36. Administrateur Adjoint De 2 Eme Classe, who i in Pondichery to join me here and he in charg or propaganda and broadcast either in Batavia or here.
(C.in C. China, 05332/19 to Adty).

Far East Aerodromes protection.

Following for Chiefs of Staff. Preliminary investigation into problem of Aerodrome defen am not satisfied with the present scale of pretection. Aerodromes in Singapore are less well protected than aerodromes in India. As an immediate measure to improve this G.O.C. Malaya is taking over the external defence of Seletar, although this can only be done at the expense of troops available for the Defence of the Island and Johore. This reinforces need for a few Battalions for static duties. Indian States force or territorial battalions would be suitable therefore request permission to deal direct with India regarding provision of these battalions.
(Easfar, 0721/19 to Air Ministry).

America and West Indies.

SIBONEY, M.Lesto.

Re Jean Lesto, passenger in U.S. SIBONEY from Lisbon to U.S.A. with plans for increasing production of Ford lorries for Germany in France. (N.A. Madrid to S.O.(I) Bermuda 1130/19).

SALISBURY RICHMOND NEWPORT.

Expect to sail from St. John's on 23/12. Route to Belfast. (F.O.3.B.S. 1058/19 to Adty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

19.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

LEOPOLDVILLE. LEOPOLDVILLE will sail 18/12 for Halifax with the personnel on board. (details)
Homewards vessel will be used for berth passengers and cargo, operating line being C.P.R. Presume you will embark 200 troops for passage U.K. in accordance with your 1601/16.
(D.S.T. 0300/19 to H.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

NEW NORTHLAND. C.in C. South Atlantic 1711/18. Please make necessary reply. Ample warning of intended sailing of NEW NORTHLAND must be given to enable route for passage arrangements to be settled. D. of S.T. 0129/6/12. refers.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa), (1046/19 to C.O.A.C. Halifax)

Town Class Destroyers. SALISBURY RICHMOND NEWPORT sailed 19/12 for St. John's N.F.
(S.O.(I) Halifax 1446/19).

PORPOISE. My 2341/22/11. PORPOISE is to be sailed if possible with H.X.98.
(D.O.D.(H) 1626/19 to R.A.3.B.S.)

Your 1626/19. Regret weather damage to PORPOISE precludes sailing before H.X. 99. Four W/T generators flooded and gun out of action. Some damage due to reloading torpedoes breaking loose.
(F.O.3.B.S. 1614/19 to Adty).

New Zealand.

U.S.S. ACHILLES escorting New Zealand portion of convoy U.S.S. consisting of H.T. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and DOMINION MONARCH left Wellington 1930Z/19 for Sydney, expected time of arrival 1800Z/22.
(S.O.(I) Wellington. 2040Z/19 to Adty etc.)

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MONDEMEY. Para reports completed loading 1000 tons bunker coal. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 1907Z/19).

LA PLATA. German ship LA PLATA sailed 2245 tonight. (Consul, Vigo, 2316/19).

TARONGA. Potential raiders. My 0139/20 and 1747/7 (Wilhelmsen ships fitting out as raiders) a further report (C.3) states that another Wilhelmsen Line ship is fitting out as A.M.C. Motor ship TARONGA 7005 tons gross, 20 knots, in raider trim.
(D.N.I. 1836/19 to C.in C's).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CLIZIA AVILES. Arrival CLIZIA, AVILAUE (as received, AVILES ?) from Gijon 15/12 for laying up. (Gijon T.N.I., 1840/19).

DERNA. Left 18/12 for Genoa. (Barcelona, 1614/19).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

LORRAINE / VERDERNAIRE } Passed Gibraltar eastward, destination unknown. (F.O.C.N.A., 0031/19).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.12.1940.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

AMICUS

(British, 5660 tons), torpedoed 54° 10' N., 15° 50' W. at 1814/19.
(Valentia Radio, recd. 2037)
Torpedoed 54° 10' N., 15° 50' W.
(Plymouth recd. 1919/19)
Torpedoed 54° 10' N. 15° 15' W. apparently for 15° 50' W. at 1914.
Investigate (C.in C. W.A. 1930/19 to WESTCOTT).
Sailed tug SEAMAN to assistance of AMICUS torpedoed in 54° 10' N., 15' 50° W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2104/19).

SAN CARLES (sunk 16/12)

Reported on good authority Spanish Ship SAN CARLES was sunk by gunfire from unknown submarine at 2000/16 on passage from Cape Juby to South of Isle Fuerteventura, crew picked up by Spanish Steamer and landed here yesterday evening. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1155/19).
Note by N.I.D.:-
The only Spanish Vessel of this name is one of 223 tons belonging to Jose Trujillo Alamo of Santander. This is not one of the shipping lines mentioned in the orders to Italian Submarine Commanders re sinking Spanish ships.

NAPIER STAR.

Your 1915/18 and my 2315/18. (No trace War Registry) No trace NAPIER STAR or survivors. Intend to continue search until dark Friday 20/12 and then return to harbour. Wind S.S.W. force 7 visibility poor.
(CALDWELL, 2105/18 to C.in C. W.A.).

H.X.90.

An analysis of the submarine attack on H.X.90 indicates a possibility that the route from 35° West to the H/V with local escort may have been compromised.
It is appreciated that this is highly improbable but owing to great importance of the matter it is requested that you will investigate.
(D.T.D. 1856/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Your 1540/17. Following is report of signal officer on my staff after interview with W/T operator of S.S. CARDITA.

ROTORUA (sunk 11/12)

W/T operator states that during forenoon 9/12 ROTORUA asked CARDITA by V/.S if she was fitted with short wave transmitter. On 10/12 between 1030 and 1100 zone plus 1 ROTORUA passed message of 30 groups M.N. code by light to CARDITA for transmission on short wave. No time of origin was received so 1100/10 was added.

/ CARDITA .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.12.1940.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

CARDITA called Portishead Radio G K A at 1245 G.M.T. on 24 metres delay being due to temporary defect in W/T transmitter G.K.D. answered at 1302 G.M.T. when message from CARDITA secret call sign MKSN and repeated due to fading R was received from G.K.D. at 1329 G.M.T. At end of message W/T operator made in P/L 'received by lamp' to indicate office of origin since from VAYP CDE 30" was also made before the text.
No other signal was received in W/T office from ROTORUA and operator has no knowledge of message 0939/11 referred to but a distress message was made for ROTORUA at 1339/11 G.M.T. W/T operator has been told that P/L is not to be used except in emergency and correct procedure explained. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1904/19 to Admty.)

Submrines Reported.

0834. D.F. bearings received, transmission probably originated from U-boat, considered impossible to estimate her position. (D.D.I.C. 0832/19).

1210. D.F. probable U-boat 58° N. to 58° 30'N., 19° to 21° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1256/19).

1610. Number of Home Guard reported S/M from Taytallich Loch Sween. Stated was in view 30 mins., conning tower painted grey. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2006/19 to Admty.)

1637. D.F. bearings indicate you may have been sighted by a U-boat. (D.D.I.C. 1709/19 to S.O. Force H).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italians.
1 still patrolling to westward of Madeira Azores area patrol continued probably by relief boat or boats.
4 in N.W. Approaches on or to eastward of 20° W. between 53° N. and 57° 30'N. 1 of which was about 54° N. and one 57° N. A.M./18.

Germans.
Very vague indications from area south of Cape de Verde Islands west of Sierra Leone Doubtful indications of one approaching N.W. Approaches from South and another from North possibly now about 60° N. 12 degs.W.
1 north of 55°N. east of 15 degs.W.
S. or S.E. of Rockall.
1 in 59° 35' N. 23° 13' W. at 1930/18, may move to southward.
1 in about 59° N. 18° W. at 1543/18 probably also attacked DALFONN at 1841/18 in same position.
1 about 60°N. 20°W.
(D.D.I.C. 1209/19.).

MOST SECRET. 87

War Diary. 20. 12. 40.

Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Use of Red Cross by Italian Aircraft.

The Italians have given notice that certain of their aircraft are marked on their fuselage and wings with red crosses contained within red circles. H.M. Government have warned the Italians that immunity will only be accorded to such aircraft when solely engaged in transporting wounded by air and that they cannot be permitted to fly near allied territory or ships or over areas of sea which are the theatre of operations. Accordingly any Italian aircraft bearing red cross markings.

(a) which come within range of H.M Ships or of coastal anti-aircraft defences are to be fired on;

(b) which are encountered by British Aircraft in the vicinity of, or approaching British, Allied, or Egyptian territory or ships are to be attacked. (V.C.N.S.0110/20)(A.M. 624A.)

H.X. Homeward Convoys.

My 2341/22/11. It has been decided that a second Submarine is to accompany homeward-bound H.X. Convoys. SEVERN should be detailed and sailed for Halifax as soon as available.(V.C.N.S. 1752/20 to V.A.S.)

Loch Ewe.

Your 1551/20/9. Only vessel at Aultbea capable of maintaining Patrol at entrance of Loch Ewe in winter months is H.M.Drifter FAIRWEATHER which must refuel at Stornoway every 2 weeks. If Patrol to be maintained request another armed Drifter be allocated to Aultbea.(A.C.O.S. 1956/20 to Adty.)

PUNJABI.

Should rejoin C. in C. H.F. on return of KIPLING and KELVIN from duty with Convoy W.S. 5A. (A.C.N.S.H. 2137/20 to C. in C.W.A.)

2 more TOWN-class Destroyers to be manned by Norwegians.

1. It has been agreed with the Norwegian Authorities that 2 more TOWN class destroyers should be manned by Norwegians. They are prepared to take them over in January.

2. In order that training may be arranged, you are requested to select 2 ships for the purpose which will complete repairs towards the end of January stating the dates when they should be ready to commission. (2nd. S.L. 2214/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy Contd.

BRANLEBAS-class Destroyers.

78. My 2055/16. Board of Enquiry is being held to report on loss of BRANLEBAS, on seaworthiness of this class of ship and to make recommendations as to future employment.

Recommend that for the present they should not be allowed to proceed to sea.
(C. in C. W.A. 2321/20 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 0630/20.(D.C. 0700/20.)
At 1130/20.(D.C.1140/20.)
At 2330/20.(D.C. 2356/20.)

Movements.

MANCHESTER.
EDINBURGH.
NIGERIA.
EGLINTON.
QUORN.
NELSON.
HOOD.
REPULSE.
ARETHUSA.
COSSACK.
TARTAR.
ESCAPADE.
DOUGLAS.
BRILLIANT.
SIKH.
ELECTRA.
ECLIPSE.
BEAGLE.
BULLDOG.
ROCKINGHAM.
STANLEY.
NIGERIA.
AURORA.

Arrived Scapa. (F.O.C.O.S.0404/20.)

Arrived 0937.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0948/20.)

Arrived Scapa 0930.(A.C.O.S. 1040/20.)

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1257/20.)

Arrived Scapa 1150.(A.C.O.S.1250/20.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1442/20.)

CLEVELAND.
BERKELEY.

Arrived Sheerness 1200 (C. in C. Nore 1646/20.)

SCIMITAR.

Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1936/20.)

MOOLTAN.

Adty. 1643/7 and C. in C. W.A. 1855/29.
Leaves Clyde unescorted at 1200/21 for Tyne and Methil. Route.C.in C. Rosyth requested to arrange onward route from Methil and [illegible] Fighter cover throughout.(F.O.I.C. [illegible]

to MOOLTAN/

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (Cont'd)
~~Defence of U.K.~~.

PUNJABI, JERSEY, JUPITER. Sailed Plymouth 1700. (C. in C. W.A. 2358/20

Force K. F.O.C. Force K reports his speed 20 knots from 0503/19. (C. in C. H.F. 0930/20 to Adty.)

VULCAN. Adty. 1744/18. Should be sailed when ready in F.S. Convoy to Southend for onward routeing to Portsmouth.(C. in C. Nore 2050/20 to BEEHIVE.)

Operations.

Western Patrol. 615 DERBYSHIRE proceed to Area H 2 and patrol H 2 and F 2 in an anticlockwise direction remaining in each area 24 hours. My 1040/19 CAMITO carry out sweep in area Q. 3. R. 3. S. 3 leaving 1200/23 and resume patrol originally ordered in 1920/16 commencing on arrival Q1.F.O C N A to sail CIRCASSIA when ready for areas Q 3. R 3. S 3 to be patrolled in anti-clockwise direction remaining in each area 24 hours commencing on arrival Q 3.(F.O.C.N.P. 0200/20 to Western Patrol.)

Iceland. The only ship available for transporting military personnel round Iceland is small Norwegian Coasting ship designed for service in Fiords. This ship is not safe in weather now being experienced. Strongly urge Ministry of Shipping be requested to provide Ocean going ship of good engine power capable of carrying 150 Officers and men to East and North Coast in safety.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland 1637/20 to Adty.)

Northern and Western Patrols. I.N.P. No. 3. Patrol areas are to be extended on the same scale to the Southward and letter numbered T1, T2, T3, U1, U2, U3, and V1 and V2. U3 is to extend to Southward to coast.(F.O.C.N.P. 2220/20 to N.P. and WP)

Proposed Operation. F.O.I.C. Iceland 1307/13/12 to Adty. Suggest preferable to find Personnel from U.K. (Alabaster 1342/20 to War Office)
See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

O.21.	Intend carry out submerged Torpedo Trials 4 miles South of Bell Rock from 1100/22. Request you report weather at 0700/22 and whether above R/V suitable for Trials. (S.9. 1001/20 to WHITE BEAR.)
PROTEUS.	Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1123/20.)
TIGRIS.	Intend sail escorted by STELLA POLARIS from Rothesay at 1000/21 for near Wolf Rock and thence unescorted to patrol. (S.2. 1519/20.) Estimate off Wolf Rock 0600/23, thence to 47° 42' N. 6° 9' W. to patrol in Bay of Biscay North Zone. (S.2. 1521/20.)
L. 23.	Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1551/20.).
Greenock Area.	Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1551/20.)
SEAWOLF.	Trawler KINGSTON AGATE will R/V with you in 50° 31' N. 0° 40' W. at 0845/21.(S.5.1803/20.)
Positions.	For following 24 hours at 0800/21.(V.A.S. 1853/20.)
H.33.	Will be exercising with A/C between 1500 and 2300/21 within 10 miles of 56° N. 7° W. and may be unescorted. Ships to keep clear. (C. in C.W.A. 1942/20.)

British Air Activity.

Offensive Patrol, of Norwegian Coast.	Your 1851/19 approved. (A.C.O.S. 0027/20 to Hatston.) Intend to send 4 Skuas leaving Hatston 1100 today. (Hatston 1010/20 to A.C.O.S.) All A/C returned to base without reaching objectives owing to lack of cloud cover. (Hatston 1430/20).
Patrols.	Patrols today HORNLI, STAB, S.9., FAIR by moonlight.(C. in C. Rosyth 0752/20. Routine Summary at 0800/20 for 15,16, and 18 Groups. (H.Q.C.C. 0853/20.) 4 Blenheims will sweep area 59°15'N.1° W, 56° 45N. 1° W on track 065° to depth of 160 miles from about 1500, returning Dyce at dusk.(C. in C. Rosyth 1304/20.)

MOST SECRET.

20. 12. 40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Following A/S. Patrol VIKING will be flown daily during daylight hours. 2 circuits of cross-over. 59° 30' N. 0° 42' E., 61° N. 1°18'E.,61°N.0°42'E, 59° 30' N. 1° 18' E. (C. in C. Rosyth 1450/20 to C. in C. H.F.)
Summary of Operations. 2 Routine A/S Patrols. 1 surface R/C to West and 1 to East. 1 A/S sweep to East for H.M. ships. Area covered 230W.to 9 W. (200 Group 1710/20 to Air Ministry.)
My 1758/19. Patrol FAIR is not being flown tonight. (C. in C. Rosyth 1850/20 to C. in C. H. F.)

Night Flying in Firth of Forth. C. in C. Rosyth 1525/18 and Crail 1905/17. Agree local night flying within 5 miles of Crail and 5 miles of Dunino may be carried out without I.F.F. and without W/T so far as local air defences are concerned.(H.Q.F.C. 1215/20 to Air Ministry.

Bordeaux. 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's in No. 1. Basin. Alternative Target the Naval Dockyard at Brest.(H.Q.C.C.1507/20.)

Brest. 53 and 59 Sqdns., to attack tonight Power Station, Naval Dockyard, and Shipping in Brest. Alternative Target the Oil-Tanks at Cherbourg.(H.Q.C.C.1508/20.)

Wilhelmshaven. 22 Sqdn. to attack tonight TIRPITZ in Vauhafen.(H.Q.C.C.1509/20.)

Air Decoys. A.M. 1148/7 and Commander Blunt's 1007/15. Request C.E. in C. Bath and DEE. may be directed to put following work in hand.(C. in C. H.A. 2205/20 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

ISOLDA sunk.

OSAGE (Br.Tanker). 1010 Tons.) sunk.

Great Western S.S. ST.PATRICK, reports the sinking of the Irish T.S.S.ISOLDA by German plane on 19/12 inside territorial waters close to Rosslare. Six killed several wounded. On the 18th a German plane attacked the British Tanker OSAGE close to the ARKLOW lightship. This ship was first machine gunned which put her steering gear out of action then three bombs burst close to ship under water and sank her. Crew safe. On December 19th a German seaplane flew over the rooftops of Rosslare.
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1043/20 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C. over Pentland Firth. At 1242 an unidentified aircraft was plotted about 25 miles west of Hoy steering 090 degrees height 10,000 feet. The aircraft reduced height to 5,000 feet maintaining its course over the north shore of the Pentland Firth until over Sandwick in South Ronaldsay. Here it altered course to 070 degrees and at 1321 the plot faded at about 70 miles. While over the Pentland Firth the aircraft was sighted by a section of Fighters on patrol but contact was immediately lost and the aircraft remained unidentified. (A.C.O.S. 1641/20 and Scapa W/T 1910/20.)

Convoy WN. 52. Attacked by one Float Plane at 1720 in 58°N. 2°8'W. No damage. (CHERACOA 1858/20 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Shipwash. Low-flying Enemy A/C reported by Gunsites as flying over Shipwash from 1907 to 1915. Not reported by any Patrols nor plotted by C.H.L. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1944/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

HIBERNIA. N.O.I.C. Holyhead report following from L.M.S. Mail Steamer HIBERNIA Holyhead to Kingstown attacked by E/A at about 2100 tonight while entering Kingstown, well inside territorial waters. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2224/20 to Adty.)

A/C. gives correct Recognition Signal. A/C. met by A/A Barrage at 2330 fired one red three white stars followed by correct Recognition Signal. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2340/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

Mining.

INTREPID. Sailed 0915. E.T.A. Humber 1500/20. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0933/20.)

Z.M.E.8. Intend leave Milford Haven tonight, lay at 2250, return on completion about 0045. (ADVENTURE 0940/20.) Operation completed. (ADVENTURE 2307/20.)

Sheerness. Group Officer in Force reports Explosion at 0920/20 in 135 Outer Bar Buoy 7 cables. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1111/20.)

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

INTREPID. Mining.
~~Has defect~~ in stern tube inner bush. Will probably require docking. Request dockyard assistance.(D.20. 1918/20 to F.O. Humber.-)

LANCASTER. Intense condensation and serious electric lighting defects. Following work proposed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0003/20 to Adty.).

PROFICIENT. (Motor Drifter) Stranded on Whitby Sands 200 Yards North of West Pier. Crew of 4 landed safely. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0520/20 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

VETERAN.
VERITY. VETERAN and VERITY in collision last night VERITY holed and engine room flooded. VETERAN slightly damaged in stern. Neither ship fit for sea. Both ships now anchored off Moville. Further details will be signalled when known.(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0903/20 to C. in C.W.A.)

HILDINA.
METHIL HILL. Collision between H.M. Trawler HILDINA and S.S. METHIL HILL 648 tons at Methil 1810/19 in 090° St. Abb's Head 2 miles HILDINA returned to Grenton under own power and beached for examination. Damage to bow possibly fractured stem post. METHIL HILL brought into Leith by Tugs with damaged bow. (N.O.I.C. Leith. 1045/20 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

S.A. Gear.

Mining. Contd.
956. Out of the mines detonated by both A and C type of S.A. gear a proportion, including the last three swept, have detonated at about 30 yards from the sweeper. In addition to damage to material the shock to personnel is severe and it is asking almost too much of the crews to continue sweeping under these conditions. It has been suggested that this may be due to mines with weak batteries but the S.A. gear cannot be considered satisfactory until means is found to detonate all accoustic mines at a greater distance.
(C. in C. Nore 1138/20 to Adty.).

Newhaven.

P.N.C.S. reports heavy Explosion about 125° at 1147.(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1153/20 to Adty) Explosion caused by Time Bomb at Friston.(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1154/20 to Adty.)

Thames Estuary.

C. in C. Nore 1949/13 and my 113/19. Swashway is not to be used until further orders. Swept channel 3 cables wide to East of line from No. 3. Medway Channel Buoy to No. 1. Yantlet Buoy may be used.(Cdre. Sheerness 1302/20).

Dover Area.

Sweeping carried out to 0800/20. In Q.Z.S.105. A buoy to No. 4 buoy channel extended one cable to westwards 75%. No. 4 buoy to Sandhead buoy channel swept 75%. One mine. Ten sweps cut by explosive cutters two cutters swept up. (V.A. Dover 1432/20 to Adty.)

Harwich.

Intend sailing 5 Fleet Sweepers at 1600 today to search 117 Q.Z.S. starting at South Falls at 0500/21.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1437/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

Sweep off Peterhead.

Intend commencing experimental M/S searching ahead of W.N. 55 due Kinnaird Head North 5' approx. 2030/20/12. 19th M/S Group R/V 5' North Kinnaird Head at 1900/20/12, and search war channel until Cruden Bay 090 degrees 6' then return to Peterhead.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1609/20 to C. in C. Rosyth.).

INTREPID.

Arrived 1620. (F.O. Humber 1621/20.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Accoustic Mines. Precautions. A case has occurred of a destroyer causing an accoustic mine to explode whilst turning with one engine ahead and the other astern, in order to straighten up before proceeding through the boom gate. It is most important to maintain a steady speed when passing through waters where accoustic mines are likely to exist. It is equally important that ships should not be delayed when approaching the gate thus causing them to get broadside on or drift out of the channel.(C. in C. Nore 1656/20.)

Milford Haven. At 1155 M/S Trawler COURTIER detonated a Type C Mine in 250° 11¼ cables from Great Castle Head Lower Light.(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1808/20.)

Granton. At 1253 M/S Trawler STAR OF BRITAIN detonated a Type B Mine in 56° 2' 54" N. 3° 13' W.(Cdr. M/S. Granton 1825/20.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Ushant. At 0610/20 an 8000 Ton M/V in 48° 46'N. 4° 18'W, proceeding Westerly at speed. A/C. report. (H.Q.B.C. 1933/20.)

Casualties & Defects.

DORADE II. Examination Vessel P.O. Milford 1525/17. Arrived Oban 1230/20 with engine and deck defects. No facilities for repair at Oban. Request instructions. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1530/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

CAMITO. Paravane bracket badly damaged. Can complete patrol but not advisable to return North in present condition. Request arrangements be made to proceed to Gibraltar on completion of patrol for removal of bracket thence proceeding without parevane protection.
(CAMITO 1905/20 to F.O.C.N.F.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

O.B. 261. My 1215/19. BENWINNES, ADVISER and BARRISTER sailed in O.B.261 at 2046/19. (A.S.O., Admty., to C.S.15, 0015/20).

F.S.64. Departure Number 1200/20/12 RADIANT to join F.S.64 for Southend for onward routeing to Portsmouth (F.O. Number 1258/20)

S.L.57B. Arrived consisting of BECKENHAM escorted by YORK CITY (N.O.I.C. Barry, 1321/20).

W.N. 55. CURACOA, LONDONDERRY left Scapa 1300/20 for convoy W.N. 55. (A.C.O.S. 1400/20).

W.N. 56. Sailed A/S trawlers CAPE ARGONA, FOXTROT for W.N.56, e.t.a. 2100/20. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1420/20).

O.B. 264. Your 1156/17. Concur CRISPIN will be required for O.B. 264. (C.in C. W.A. 1542/20 to F.O.C.N.P.)

H.X.94 D. R/V with H.D.94 B. 063° 46' N., 006° 08' W. at 0100/21. (C.in C. W.A. 1544/20 to LEEDS UNITED).

F.N. 63. Departure Harwich 1548/20 SELKIRK for Grimsby with F.N.63. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1552/20).

H.X.93. LACONIA sailing as ocean escort returning to Halifax on completion. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1951/20).

S.L.S. 60. My 1130/18 inward route. Delete 064° 10'N., 021° 51'W. (V.A.N.P. 2150/20 to MARSDALE).

Convoys. Estimated positions 0900/20. (D.T.D., 1925/20).

O.B.263. Amending his 1900/17, (route). (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 0950/20).

H.X.97. Date and route. Escort HEPATICA to U.K. WORCESTERSHIRE joins at sea and proceeds to Clyde. (D.T.D., 1147/20 to C.in C. W.A.)

F.N. 63. 1900/20. 25 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1944/20).

F.S. 65. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1907/20).

S.L. 57. Following arrived (List). (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 2245/20).

O.B.C. 266. Sailed 2050/20. List. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2335/20).

/ H.X. 91. ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X.91.	Move to for 48 hours, 5/12 much scattered. All now arrived except DIONYSIS STATHATOS, abandoned, weather damage. (D.T.D. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1356/19).
F.S. 94.	30 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0946/20). Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1827/20).
O.B.H. 265.	1618/21. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, 9. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1025/20).
F.N. 65.	Left 1000/20 with COVENTRY CITY. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1144/20).
O.B. 261.	Sailed Oban 0030/20. 11 ships. Escort COLUMBINE. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1206/20)
	BEACONSFIELD to be diverted to Freetown for onward routeing. (D.T.D. 1900/20 to C.in C. W.A.).
F.E. and F.S.	Forecast of sailings and escorts. (C.in C. Rosyth 1217/20).
H.X. 96.	Amendment of route. (D.T.D., 1536/20 to RANPURA).
S.L. 57.	Arrived (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1559/20).
O.B.O. 262.	Expect to sail 0145/21. 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1604/20).
O.B. 264.	1300/24. Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1707/20).
O.B. 262.	Sailed 1130/20. 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1755/20) List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1756/20).
F.S. 93.	Arrived except STEPNEY. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1855/20).
O.B.O. 261.	DOVERHILL destination changed to Savannah. (D.T.D. to C.in C. W.A. 1901/20).
H.N. 58.	1400/22. Escorts CAPE ARGONA, FOXTROT, 3 ships. Code "Metric". (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1430/20).
H.N. 43. / H.N.44.	Ry 2305/19. Add includes tug RESTIVE for Campbeltown, departure HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH latter as additional escort to Pentland Firth area, with H.N.44 (C.in C. Rosyth 2242/20).

/ 2 M.V's. CHESAPEAKE, KONGHANG. .....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

2 M.V's, CHANNEL COMMAND.

Your 1835/19 and C.in C. Portsmouth 1833/19. Arrived 0939/20. (N.O.S.O. Dartmouth 1828/20).

5 M.V's

Number departure 1400/20. MOLLUSC escorting five Merchants ships to Tyne thence to Blyth.
(N.O. Number 1403/20).

5 M.V's

My 1205 (no trace in War Reg.) sailed 5 M.V. escorts A/S trawlers LORD ESSENDEN and RUBY.
(N.O.S.O. Dartmouth, 1751/20).

H.G. 48.

After passing through 53° 20'N. 15° 30'W. H.G. 48 to steer for 55° 00' N., 12°20'W. thence by route ordered. (C.in C. W.A. 0703/20 to Deptford)
If contact not made with AMICUS by 1100/20 intend joining H.G. 48.
(WESTCOTT, 0945/20 to C.in C. W.A.)

H.X.94.

Expected to arrive Oban with GREY COUNTY and OKAN 1200/20. MALLOW escorting B portion, NORTHERN DAWN, WELLARD have not been in company.
(SCIMITAR 0440/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

c.d.

My 0440/20. Have picked up WOENSCRECHT For OKAN read VARAND.
(SCIMITAR 0916/20).

C.W.20.

My 2112/17. Escorts for C.W.20 as follows:- Destroyers BERKELEY or CATTISTOCK, CLEVELAND.
A/S Trawlers KINGSTON OLIVINE, LADY PHILOMENA, ORKNEPLY, M/S Trawlers ACACIA, DEODAR, ASH, BLACKTHORN BAY.
M.A.B. Vessels SAMDOR, ROEBUCK, PINGOUIN, HASLEMERE, MAMMOUTH, PINTADE.
M.L's 113, 116, 117, 118, 142, 165 and Chasseur 43. (C.in C. Nore, 1156/20 to Admty.)

Owing to damage to BERKELEY it is probable that CATTISTOCK will have to take her place as escort of C.W.20 21/12. Further signal will be made.
(C.in C. Nore, 1350/20).

Confirmed that BERKELEY will be unable to sail with C.W.20. CATTISTOCK is to take her place leaving Sheerness as ordered by CLEVELAND.
(C.in C. Nore, 1520/20).

/ S.L.(S) 57. .....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys. (Contd.)

S.L.(S) 57.

Following is repetition of my 1126/20 addressed AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, HEARTSEASE, CROCUS, LADY LILIAN from C.in C. W.A. escort detailed for Oban portion S.L.(S)57 after arrival at Oban will be required to escort about eight ships from Oban to North Channel.
(C.in C. W.A. 1130/20 to LADY LILIAN).

H.N. 42.
S.L.S.57.

Following is a repetition of my 1608/20. Addressed - AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, HEARTSEASE, CROCUS, STELLA CAPELLA, LADY LILIAN, HORNPIPE, From C.in C. W.A. Estimate H.N. 42 will overhaul S.L.S.57 about 2000/20 off Oversay Light 1608.
(C.in C. W.A. 1316/20 to LADY LILIAN).

S.L. 57.

My 1020/20. AMAZON detailed in lieu of HEARTSEASE for B. Portion. Expected time of arrival 055° 48' 005° 08' now 0800/21. Commodore's expected time of arrival 280 Bar 1630/21. (AMBUSCADE 1608/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

S.C.17.

In absence of other instructions intend sailing MALOJA as ocean escort for S.C.17. Regret cannot guarantee to produce one for future S.C. convoys with present number of armed merchant cruisers in N.A. Escort Force.
(F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1946/20 to Admty.)

Convoy Cycles.

My 2147/20 (see U-Boat Campaign).
Proposed to send following signal to Naval Authorities concerned. Your remarks are urgently requested.
The cycle of convoys is being amended as follows:-
Two H.X. convoys, one SC convoy, one SL convoy and one HG convoy to sail every 10 days. The SC convoy will rendezvous with a SL (S) convoy at sea, the whole then being known as HG.
3 OB convoys, one OB(S) convoy and one OG to sail every 10 days. The OG convoy will include slow ships for the South Atlantic. The outward bound and homeward bound convoys will be so arranged that every 10 days the escorts of 2 OB convoys transfer to HX convoys and the escorts of the OB(S) OG and one OB convoy transfer to the SC, HG and SL convoys respectively.

/ Normally .....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoy Cycles (contd.)

Normally those OB convoys whose escorts will meet HX convoys will be routed well to the northward. Ships of low endurance for the South Atlantic should not be included in these convoys. Ships in OB convoys whose escorts will meet SL convoys will normally be routed further South as will OB(S) and OG convoys.
This 10 day cycle of convoys will commence as follows:- (dates).
It will be noted that HX convoys sail alternatively at 4 and 6 day intervals. (D.T.D. 2156/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

Troop Convoys.

W.S.5 A.

Unless you have made other arrangements H.M.C.S. OTTAWA should act as Senior Officer A/S escort until arrival of H.M.S. HIGHLANDER as French Light Cruiser LE TRIOMPHANT has not yet worked up. (C.in C. W.A. 1514/20 to C.in C. H.F.).

W.S. 5 A.

Convoys WS 5A (Fast and slow) and aircraft carriers escorted by BERWICK and other H.M. Ships pass through position 054 deg. 10' North, 025 deg., 00' West A.M./22/12 routed through 053 deg. 00' North, 025 deg. 00' West 046 deg. 00' North, 026 deg. North west 039 deg. 40' North, 021 deg. 30' West 012 deg. 45' North 019 deg. 30' West 008'deg. 20' North 015 deg. 00' West thence to Freetown. Speed 15 and 11 knots.
M.T. Ships, one aircraft carrier and escorts will leave main convoy probably 26/12 and pass through Patrol area to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.F. 2230/20 to Western Patrol).

Ref W/017/19/12 not to Stranraer.
Cancel first sortie by Aldergrove.
Stranraer to escort secret convoy W.S.5A fast with one Lerwick from First Flight 29/12. Convoy should be in position GEQL at 0800 hrs. on route from North channel to GFGH 0041 and HFS 2900. Speed 14½ knots. Datum Point GEQL 0000.
Naval escort NAIAD FURIOUS ARGUS H44 H19 037 091 H04 H89 H83 063 H02 and I75. 0715/20.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

COMPIEGNE
BRETOIS

C.O. of KINGSTON TOPAZ reports closed French SS COMPIEGNE when she left Lisbon to ascertain reaction of French destroyer BRETOIS who was cruising near. As soon as BRETOIS realized that KINGSTON TOPAZ was closing COMPIEGN former bore down on KINGSTON TOPAZ with all guns cleared away and manned. (A.S. Gibraltar 1132/20 to Admty.)

French Destroyers

Your 1210/10. N.C.S.O. Lisbon has no justification for the request in his 1628/12 as this is a matter of Contraband Control not in his province.

If these ships were intercepted holding ship Navicerts they would naturally be allowed to proceed. If without they would be sent in. (D.E.W.D. 1054/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.12.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

RHONE, fire.

S. PIERRE in position 028° 33'N., 012° 02'W at 0930/20 reports RHONE on fire ten miles West of her. (British 209 tons).
(MARSDALE, 1043/20 to F.O.C.N.P., F.O.C.N.A)

CIRCASSIA.

Intend sail CIRCASSIA for patrol in accordance with your 0200/20 on 26/12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1130/20 to V.A.N.P.)

Your 1130/20. If ready for sea and local escort available request CIRCASSIA be sailed 24/12 for area R.3 and S.3.
(F.O.C.N.P 2300/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Force H. Oiling at sea.

Your 1819/17. Force H had just reached position N.E. of Azores when recalled. In this area conditions were definitely unsuitable for oiling at sea owing to long and heavy swell. SHEFFIELD reports on 4 out of 5 days in area south of St. Miguel conditions were suitable for oiling. This confirms to some extent RENOWN's previous experience that this area is probably the best. Heavy ships normally oil close under lee of land. Information required concerning the extent to which swell persists under the lee and locality least likely to be under shore observation. 1145/20.

UPHOLDER USK UNIQUE.

At 0001 /21. UPHOLDER, USK, UNIQUE from U.K. expect to cross 041° 00'N., routed through 038° 30'N., 010° 46' W., 036° 46'N 009° 22'W to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1547/20).

Aircraft Equipment.

Your 1844/8 not to ARGUS. Four external L.R. tanks being sent in ARGUS with 21 (X) Flight. Any more requirements be provided by ARK ROYAL no more available in U.K.
(D.N.A.D. 1834/20 to S.O.Force H.)

/TRIDENT.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

TRIDENT — A.T. 1323/19. Para 5 amend TRIDENT's estimated position course and speed to read (details) (D.O.D. (F) 1857/20 to BONAVENTURE)

BERWICK — Cancel my 1122/20. Admty 1805/20, enter Gibraltar as soon as possible tonight 20/12 after 2200 zone - 1. (F.O.C.N.A. 2052/20 to BERWICK)

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE — Capetown arrivals 20/12. CARNARVON CASTLE (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0703/20 to Admty.)

TRIBESMAN — Overdue shipping TRIBESMAN due Durban 15/12 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1005B/20)

LORNASTON — Overdue shipping. LORNASTON due Durban 16/12 from Fremantle not arrived. (S.O. (I) Capetown, 1015B/20)

MILFORD — Arrival 0930/20 (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1231N/20)

Whalers — 4 Whale Catchers sail from Freetown for St. Helena 21/12 thence to Walvis Bay. (C. in C., S.A., 1249/20)

/Contd.

MOST SECRET.

20.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Whalers.

Whale catchers SVONA SKUD three SKUD four and SKUD five sail Freetown 21/12 for St. Helena thence to Walvis Bay and Simonstown and except to arrive Walvis Bay 6/1/41 and will require total of 250 tons fuel. Request you will arrange.
(C.in C. S.A. 1301/20 to Capt: i/c Simonstown).

SAVOREGNAN DE BRAZZA.

Simonstown departures 1300/20 December Free French Sloop SAVOROGNAN DE BRAZZA for Durban.ETA1100/23.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1305Z/20 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

DELHI.

Arrived Manoka 1300/20.
(DELHI 1310/20 to C.in C. S.A.)

FURIOUS.

Following aircraft despatched FURIOUS 19/12. (details)
(Air Min. 1735/20 to R.A.F. Station Takoradi).

Destroyers Force K.

Your 0020/19 Request confirmation that 2 destroyers mentioned are for operations with Force K.
(C.in C. S.A. 1827/20 to Adty).

Your 1827/20. Destroyers are to enable Force K to be escorted in and out of Freetown and for escort of FURIOUS pending arrival of Corvettes.
(V.C.N.S. 2355/20 to C.in C. S.A.)

Enemy Unit.

D/F Bearings at 2108/20 G.M.T. of probable surface unit making - ZZ. FMS. SZQ. ECM. NJBC.
(D.D.I.C. 2316/20 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

MALAYA
HUBIAN
DIAMOND
DEFENDER
WEYNECK
WAIWERA
LANARKSHIRE

Arrived 0230/20 MALAYA, HUBIAN, DIAMOND, DEFENDER, WEYNECK, WAIWERA, LANARKSHIRE. (V.A.Malta, 0135/20)

GRIFFIN
GREYHOUND
GALLANT
DAINTY
HASTY

Arrival 0430/20 GRIFFIN, GREYHOUND, GALLANT, DAINTY, HASTY. (V.A.Malta 0343/20)

Italian
R.D.F.

Capt. (S) 1st S.F.'s 1229/17. No positive information is available concerning use of R.D.F. by enemy screen vessels. Frequent instances of M.A.S. or Destroyers closing at high speed from outside visibility range have been reported. In some instances M.A.S. have passed directly overhead shortly after submarine had dived but in no instance has any hunt or attack developed. This led to theory that some enemy escorting ships were probably equipped with a device detecting submarines on the surface at range exceeding 4 thousand yards. (Lt. Com. (S) 0927/20 to Admty.)

Brindisi
Raid

A 225 20/11. Operational Summary. Night 19/20 3 Wellingtons 70 Sqdn. carried out successful raid on oil tanks and railways at Brindisi. Visibility made observation results difficult but aircraft bombing from 8000, 5500, and 3000 feet put all bombs target area. Large fires were started and subsequent explosions observed. Extremely severe A/A fire met, was very accurate up to 10,000 feet and followed aircraft around target. One Wellington was hit on one engine, and airscrew shot away. Balloons seen North of town. (H.Q.,R.A.F., G. 0940/20)

CIRCASSIA
VIDETTE

Gibraltar arrivals 0745/20 CIRCASSIA, VIDETTE. (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 1044/20 to Admty.)

/Operational

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operational Summary No 193 Up to 1200 hrs. 20/12.

Egypt.

Greece.

Sudan. 19/12. 1 Blenheim made submarine search ahead of convoy.

(H.Q., R.A.F., Middle East, 1222/20 to Air Min.)

Spanish Trade

For information. There seems to be large increase of traffic between Spanish East Coast and Sete e.g. Valencia departure 17/12 Spanish sailing vessels CARMEN, ESTELA, PAULITA, CALAMA, RZERO, NUEVO CORAZON.

Unknown Submarine

Las Palmas reports on good authority that Spanish ship SS SAN CARLOS sunk by gunfire by unknown submarine between Cape Juby and Puerteventura on 16/12.
From intercepted wireless signal it appears also that French S.S. RHONE and SFAX have also sunk in that vicinity.
No British submarines in that vicinity.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1222/20 to N.A.Madrid)

M.T.Convoy

F.O.Force H. 2358/19. If you wish to, request you will amend Admiralty 1322/19 and 1323/19 as necessary but it would appear that extra destroyers will be required to escort ARGUS and DUNEDIN back into Gibraltar.

ARGUS DUNEDIN

If ARGUS is kept with M.T.Convoy BONAVENTURE should remain with DUNEDIN until it is necessary for her to proceed ahead to Gibraltar so as to fuel and transfer 60 military personnel to Mediterranean destroyers. (D.O.D. (F) 1241/20 to C. in C., Med.)

BONAVENTURE

BONAVENTURE has on board 4 Army Officers and 56 other ranks comprising 4 groups of special troops trained for raiding from submarines.
They are to be transferred at Gibraltar to destroyers for onward passage to Malta.
They will be under operational control of C. in C., Med. (D.O.D. (F) 1245/20 to C. in C., Med.)
Cancel position (d) proceed from position (e) direct to position (e) (D.O.D.(H) 1303/20 to C.S. 15 BONAVENTURE)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1940.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

KINGSTON TOPAZ,
KINGSTON TURQUOISE

Gibraltar departure 1300/20 KINGSTON TOPAZ for T. 1 South KINGSTON TURQUOISE protecting T 1 North. 1326/20.

REGENT.

My 1921/19. Concentrate on Coastal route keeping to S. of 33° N. between 014° E. and 015° E.
Leave Patrol P.M.23/12 to pass through position 035° 32'N. 014° 13' E. to arrive off Grangemouth Harbour 0700/25. Delimara Light will be exhibited from 0200/25. Times Zone minus one.
(V.A. Malta, 1881/20 to REGENT).

UPRIGHT.

Leave 034° N. 013° E. pass through positions 035° 00' N. 014° E., 035° 35' N. 014° 10' E. to arrive off Grand Harbour 0700/24. Delimara light will be exhibited from 0200/24 time zone minus one.
(V.A. Malta, 1889/20 to UPRIGHT).

Air Report.

Combined Services report - Malta to 1700/20.
(H.Q. Med. 1700/20 to Air Min.)

Greece.

Operational Summary No. 38. No naval items. (H.Q. B.A.F., C., 1640/20).

A/S information to Greek Naval Authorities.

Information onA/S matters may be disclosed to Greek Naval Authorities as considered necessary, with the following exceptions. No information should be given on A/S Experimental matters including detection of U-Boats by R.D./F., nor on methods of identification, including loop identification signals. Selected Commissioned Officers of Royal Hellenic Navy undergoing instruction in radio gear and methods may be given access to Confidential Books as considered necessary. Strict reticence should be observed with regard to present and future anti-U-Boat measures being adopted in the approaches to the United Kingdom.
(D.A/S.W. 1737/20 to C.in C. Med.)

DUNCAN,
ENCOUNTER,
ISIS,
WISHART,
JAGUAR,
FORCE H

Gibraltar departures 0930 20/12 DUNCAN, ENCOUNTER, ISIS, WISHART, JAGUAR 1815 S.O. Force H in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FAULKNOR, FURY, FOXHOUND, FORTUNE, FIREDRAKE, FORESTER in accordance with S.O. Force H. 2325/19/12. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1818/20 to Admty.)

Air Operation ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Air Operation. Wellington and Swordfish aircraft will be visiting Tripoli (Africa) tonight 20/21 T.O.O. 1908/20.
(V.A. Malta, 1911/20 to Med. Fleet).

East M.T. Ships, troop transports. East M.T. ships and troop transports are urgently required in U.K.
Request you will consider passing a convoy of such ships westward to Gibraltar during operation EXCESS and forward your remarks.
It is recognised that there would be risk to ships on passage bu this could be accepted in view of urgency of their return.
Vessels particularly required are LANARKSHIRE, ORION and STRATHMORE and any others of suitable speed.
As these ships are not fitted with paravanes, would it be possible to sweep them through minable waters.
Commercial cargoes could be loaded so far as time permits, also MALAYA's tubes if available as they are required at Gibraltar as soon as possible.
(D.O.D.(F) 2156/20 to C.in C. Med.)

East Indies.

Convoy B.S.11. Sailing telegram 1100 G.M.T./19. Route. Escorts CLIVE and GRIMSBY from 20/12.
(S.E.N.O. Suez, 1223/19, recd. Admty. 0315/20).

Kenya Defences. Admty. 2937/23/9 (Re tug whalers for interception of dhows from British East Africa). To bring Kenya coastal patrol N.A. protection up to reasonable standards, 6 Lewis guns are necessary in addition to those already held at Kilifindini. None available from naval sources on East Indies station. Request supply from U.K.
(C.in C. E.I., 0408/20, to Admty.)

B.S.4B. Convoy sailing telegram. B.S.4B. 0900 G.M.T. 16/12, 17 knots. Route. Escorts, SHROPSHIRE and DEVONSHIRE, transports, ANDES STRATHALLAN, ORCADES, VICEROY OF INDIA, STRATHAIRD, DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, EMPRESS OF CANADA, REINE DEL PACIFICO, OTRANTO, STRATHNAVER
Cmdre E.G. Robinson (DUCHESS OF ATHOL)
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0910B/20).

DEVONSHIRE. Durban arrival 20/12 DEVONSHIRE.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0410Z/20).

KIMBERLEY. KIMBERLEY arrived 0400Z/20.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0501Z/20).

/ CERES COLOMBO ...

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

CERES
COLOMBO.

CERES is to leave Mombasa A.M./22 and proceed to patrol off Kismayu.
CERES is to arrange to rendezvous with COLOMBO A.M./23.
COLOMBO is to proceed to Mombasa on relief by CERES.
(C.in C. E.I., 12442/20).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

COLOMBO, CORNWALL. My 0630 December 15th COLOMBO will reconnoitre Mogadishu evening 21/12 from outside range of shore guns assumed to be 15000 yards. If shipping is seen there and COLOMBO's fire is innefective at this range CORNWALL will bombard from same range evening 22/12. (C.in C. E.I. 14562/20 to Admty.).

Assab Raids. Summary No. 191 for 24 hours ending 1500/20. 0830 3 Blenheims 8 Squadron attacked water pumping station at Harsile 3½ miles south of Assab salt pans.
0900 to 0920 1 of these aircraft reconnoitred Assab Area. No activity or changes seen Assab Harbour Macaaca aerodromes and bombing range 2 Satellites and Bailul landing ground.
3 Blenheims 203 Squadron returned from convoy duties based Kamaran.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1526/20 to Air Min.)

SAGITTA. 1910Z/20 departure SAGITTA. (S.O.I.C. Aden, 1916Z/20).

China.

Intelligence. Far Eastern Weekly Intelligence Report 9. No major change. (C.O.S. Singapore, 0406Z/20).

N.E.I. Navy. Following received from C.in C. Netherlands East Indies Begins. Informative Reference Staff Discussion Netherland Indies Government agree to following points:
Exchange of Liaison Officers.
Organization of communication cypher code for combined action consisting of three. Co-ordination of Intelligence.
Contact of officers of Air Force for organization of co-operation of Air Forces.
Visit of B.R. Staff Officer to Netherland Indies. Proposal will be made to carry out points. Ends. (C.in C. China 0415Z/20 to Admty.)

Enemy Raider Policy. Your 0830/11. Concur generally with C.in C. E.I. 1540/12 and 1750/15. My present resources are so limited that can do little more than provide intermittent cover for trade in Achin Head area. (C.in C. China, 0517Z/20. N.S. Melbourne.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (continued).

TIRRANNA. Your 0737Z/17 to S.O. (I) Hong Kong. Can you ascertain date TIRRANNA was sunk and name of Yugo-Slav vessel. Could she have been DURMITOR, sailed Lourenco Marques 26/9 for Batavia. (D.D.I.C. 1213/20 to S.O.(I) Shanghai).

Hong Kong works schemes. In view of present conditions Board has approved following revised statement of policy concerning works schemes at Hong Kong.
Request Commodore, Hong Kong report present state of all proposed works.
(Head of M. 1607/20 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

Raider Report. EMPIRE SAMBAR. R.R.R.R., 51.10 N., 35.06 W. EMPIRE SAMBAR sighted. (Via Lyness W/T, no T.O.O. recd. 1010/20). Following has been read:- From EMPIRE SAMBAR, cancel my R.R.R.R.0920. (T.O.R. 1148/20).
Raider reported by EMPIRE SAMBAR is WORCESTERSHIRE (WORCESTERSHIRE 0709/20, to Admty.)

H.X.90, Convoy Conference. Masters of 3 ships in H.X.90 state convoy conference not held before sailing. N.C.S.O. Bermuda reported having said he did not believe in conferences. Request you investigate and report.
(D.T.D., 1409/20 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

H.X.90. Your 1414/18. Date of sailing of H.X.90 and R.V. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 0008/20).

ALAUNIA. ALAUNIA arrived Halifax 20/12 from HX 96. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 0329/20 to Admty.)

LEOPOLDVILLE. Your 0030/19 not to N.O.I.C. St. John, N.B. LEOPOLDVILLE will proceed to St. John, N.B. from Halifax for cargo and passengers. Now estimated sailing from St. John, N.B. direct for U.K. (date and accommodation). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1113/20 to D. of S.T.)

BAYANO. My 1645 Oth Sailing of BAYANO delayed till 24/12 on account of fruit loading difficulties.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1445/20 to C.in C. S.A.)

DESPATCH. Kingston arrival DESPATCH. Bermuda pass to CARADOC.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston 1500/20 to C.in C. A. and W.I.).

Japanese Shipping. My 0948/19. Los Angeles reports Japanese lines are refusing to sign cargo contracts for delivery at given date and place without cancellation of clause. YASUKAWA MARU sailed Manzanilla 2/12 for Yokohama direct

/ omitting ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (continued).

TIRRANNA.

Your 07372/17 to S.O. (I) Hong Kong. Can you ascertain date TIRRANNA was sunk and name of Yugo-Slav vessel. Could she have been DUNSTON, sailed Lourenco Marques 26/9 for Batavia. (D.D.I.C. 1213/20 to S.O.(I) Shanghai).

Hong Kong works schemes

In view of present conditions Board has approved following revised statement of policy concerning works schemes at Hong Kong.
Request Commodore, Hong Kong report present state of all proposed works.
(Head of M. 1307/20 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

Raider Report. EMPIRE SAMBAR.

R.R.R.R., 51.10 N., 35.06 W. EMPIRE SAMBAR sighted. (Via Lyness W/T, no T.O.O. recd. 1010/20). Following has been read:- From EMPIRE SAMBAR, cancel my R.R.R.R.0920. (T.O.R. 1148/20).
Raider reported by EMPIRE SAMBAR is WORCESTERSHIRE (WORCESTERSHIRE 0709/20, to Admty.)

H.X.90, Convoy Conference.

Masters of 3 ships in H.X.90 state convoy conference not held before sailing. N.C.S.O. Bermuda reported having said he did not believe in conferences. Request you investigate and report.
(D.T.D., 1408/20 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

H.X.92.

Your 1414/18. Date of sailing of H.X.89 and H.V. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 0008/20).

ALAUNIA.

ALAUNIA arrived Halifax 20/12 from HX 96. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 0029/20 to Admty.)

LEOPOLDVILLE

Your 0030/19 not to N.O.I.C. St. John, N.B. LEOPOLDVILLE will proceed to St. John, N.B. from Halifax for cargo and passengers. Now estimated sailing from St. John, N.B. direct for U.K. (date and accommodation). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1113/20 to D. of S.T.)

BAYANO

My 1545 9th Sailing of BAYANO delayed till 24/12 on account of fruit loading difficulties.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1445/20 to C.in C. S.A.)

DESPATCH

Kingston arrival DESPATCH. Bermuda pass to CARADOC.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston 1500/20 to C.in C. A. and W.I.).

Japanese Shipping.

My 0545/16. Los Angeles reports Japanese lines are refusing to sign cargo contracts for delivery at given date and place without cancellation of clause. YASUKAWA MARU sailed Manzanilla 2/12 for Yokohama direct

/ omitting ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Japanese shipping. (contd.) omitting usual call at Los Angeles. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1604/20, to Capt. O.S. Singapore).

Bermuda. Leakage. Admiralty 1856/19 and your 1812/19 not to Admiralty. After investigation I am confident that possibility leakage at Bermuda is Negligible. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1731/20, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

REVENGE, T.C.8. H.X.100. My 2349/6. Owing to possibility of appearance of raider in North Atlantic REVENGE is to leave convoy T.C.8 on 21/12 and return to Halifax. REVENGE should be sailed to cover HX 100. Cancel my 1224/18/12 and my 2133/18/12 (D.O.D. (H) 1714/20 to R.A. 3 B.S.).

Australia.

Raider, Nauru. Statement for Press by Navy Minister, Mr. Hughes, on raider attack on shipping off Nauru on 6/12. (A.C.N.B., 14362/20 to Admty.) (Original in Lion Copy only).

BATHURST, MANOORA. BATHURST left Westernport 0230Z/19 arrived Port Phillip Bay 0736Z/19. MANOORA escorting local transport ZEALANDIA left Darwin 2229Z/18 for Thursday Island. (A.C.N.B. 1234Z/20 to Admty.)

ADELAIDE WAIRUNA ADELAIDE departed Sydney 0245Z/19 escorting WAIRUNA towards FIJI until 0200Z/24 when ADELAIDE will return to Sydney. (A.C.N.B. 1812Z/20 to Admty.)

CANBERRA. CANBERRA arrived Sydney 2122Z/19. (A.C.N.B. 1914Z/20 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LA PLATA.

German ship LA PLATA sailed from Vigo 2245/19. (D.D.I.C. 0240/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

LA PLATA.

German LA PLATA sailed from Vigo 2245 19/12. Description. (F.O.C.N.A. 0751/20).

FULDA, SCHARNHORST.

Japanese transport at Woosung 26/11 and in Yangtse estuary 17/12 identified as German ship FULDA which left Dairen 15/8, description.
Kobe 15/12 no alteration or new construction observed in German SCHARNHORST.
(Capt. on Staff, Singapore 0837/20 to Admty.)

JOA PESSOA

JOA PESSOA left Bilbao 2130/19 Destination unknown. (Bilbao, (1745/20 to D.N.I. ?)
(1755/20

PLUS (German, 2442 tons).

My 2316/19 (re German ship LA PLATA) PLUS also left harbour last night but later returned to her anchorage and is still here. (Consul Vigo, 0912/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Attacks on Convoys, N.W. Approaches.

Enemy U-Boats in the N.W. Approaches have been attacking our convoys in 20° to 25° West in the area beyond the point which can be reached by our escorts, particularly in bad weather. To meet this attack and at the same time to reduce the strain upon our escorting forces following policy has been decided upon.

2.(a) To make use of dispersion to maximum extent that the endurance of merchant ships and the limitation of the N.W. Approaches permit;

(b) Routes of N.A. convoys will be spread between about 57° N.; and 63-1/2°. Routes for SL 3C and Gibraltar convoys will be spread between about 57°N. and 54°N. or as far south as the danger from aircraft can be accepted. Routes of outward bound convoys will conform.

(c) To open out the cycle of all convoys except the Gibraltar convoy with the object of reducing the strain on our escort forces.

(d) In Summer it is proposed to make the maximum use of of Northern waters in order to gain the high degrees of protection against present U-Boat tactics given by the perpetual daylight.

Fuel Bases, Loch Ewe, Iceland.

3. To allow of escorts on the more Northerly routes proceeding further to the Westward it is intended to establish refuelling bases for escorts at Loch Ewe and at Hvalfjord in Iceland. A depot ship and at least one rescue tug will be stationed in the latter harbour.

4. It is further intended to make use of the Minches for some outward and homeward convoys for which purpose additional buoyage is being established. (D.T.D. 2147/20).

Ships Attacked.

SAN CARLOS, Spanish. (Sunk 16/12) See S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1222/20, under Mediterranean.

RHONE, } SKAX }
French, sunk in region between Cape Juby and Fuerteventura (no dates given). S.O.I., Gibraltar 1222/20. See Mediterranean.

CARLTON. The following has been read. 55° 36' N. 18° 00'W. CARLTON submarine chasing. (Valentia Radio, 0840/20).

/ The following ....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

The following has been read:
Submarine attack.
55°-33'N. 15°-10'W. CARLTON being chased by submarine.
(Valentia W/T, 0919/20).

CARLTON. The following has been read.
55° 36'N. 18° 00'W. CARLTON submarine chasing we firing at him 0922/20.
(Via Lyness W/T, T.O.R, 0930/20).

Cancel my submarine distress message my 0915 20th December.
(CARLTON via Valentia Radio, 1157/20)

The following has been read.
55° 18'N. 18° 49'W. submarine
(CARLTON, 1254/20.)

The following has been read.
55° 18 N. 18° 49 W. CARLTON torpedo crossed ahead 1259/20. (CARLTON, 1301/20).

PENDRECHT. Dutch ship PENDRECHT reports being torpedoed in 59° 05' N. 17° 47' W. at 1429/18? G.M.T. Has large hole on starboard quarter and no boats. Have ordered her to proceed to Greenock. Her position, course and speed 56°25'N. 07° 22'W. 171° 9 knots. As she is in no danger of sinking am not escorting her. SANDWICH, 1045/20 to C.in C. W.A.

PENDRECHT safe. Return to base passing through 033° 26' N. 018° 11'W. where DELFOS reported she was attacked by submarine 1743/18. (C.in C. W.A. 1414/20 to ARABIS).

LEGION reported at 1715 she was in 55° 31'N. 6° 22'W. escorting torpedoed PENDRECHT to Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2116/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

HAPIER STAR. Ship is searching for you now in position you gave. (Admty. Devonport 1112/20 to HAPIER STAR.)

Continue to search for HAPIER STAR as long as fuel permits.
(C.in C. W.A. 1755/20 to CALDWELL).

OREGON. The following has been read.
Cancel 2333 re OREGON.
(OREGON, 1245/20).

The following has been read.
8 miles bearing 260° Skerries attacked by submarine. (OREGON, T.O.R. 1330/20).

/ Following received ...

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

Following received from WOODCOCK R Y A M 27 begins:- Received 1245 G.M.T. S S S OREGON 8 miles bearing 260° Skerries, attacked by submarine. T.O.O. 1229. Ends. (F.O. Humber 1425/20 to Admty.)

VARENGBERG. VARANGBERG 55° 30' N. 1925 W. attacked by submarine torpedoes missing. (Plymouth W/T T.O.R. 1336/20).

55° 30' N. 19° 25 W. VARANGBERG attacked by submarine. (Valentia Radio, 1335/20).

The following has been read. 55° 30' N. 19° 25'W. VARENGBERG attacked by submarine. (VARENGBERG, T.O.R. 1347/20).

AMICUS Your 0945/20th. Continue search for AMICUS until dark 20/12. (C.in C. W.A. 1324/20 to WESTCOTT).

CARLTON VARANBERG Proceed to attack submarines reported chasing CARLTON in position 055° 18' N. 018° 45' W. at 1455 and VARANBERG in position 055° 30' N. 019° 25' W. at 1435. Both ships outwardbound. Sunderland Aircraft should arrive about 1900 to co-operate. (C.in C. W.A. 1532/20 to WESTCOTT).

Submarines Reported.

1719. By D.F. 54° to 56° N., 17° to 20° W. (D.D.I.C. 1926/20).

Loch Sween (at 1510/19) Your 2006/19 investigation reveals that Cable ship IRIS painted grey was near Loch Sween at 1610/19 and uses Loch for night anchorage. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1028/20)

Italian. Indications Italian U-boats approaching Bordeaux cross meridian 007° W. between 045° and 046° N. (V.A.S. 1851/20 to S/M's on patrol Area B).

0935. A.F. message 55.36 N., 18°W. at 0835 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0958/20).

Estimated U-boat dispositions. Italian.
One to Westward of Madeira.
One in Azores area.
4 in N.W.Approaches in triangle 57 degs. N. 20 degs. W. 54 degs. N. 20 degs. W. at 54 degs N. 15 degs. W. of which one was in 54 degs. 10' N. 15 degs. 50' W. at 1910/19; one in 55 degs. 36'N. 18 degs. W. at 0835/20, others probably near 20 degs. W.

German. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions. (Contd.)	German. Probably one in Sierra Leone area. One was west of Cape Juby at 2100/16. One may be about 55 degs. N. West of 15 degs. W. proceeding Northwards. One may be N.W. Rockall proceeding West. One about 58 degs. N. 20 degs. W. at 1210/19. One to North Westward of this position. One was North of 60 degs. N. and West of 20 degs. W. at 0121/20. One may be S. of S.E. of Rockall. (D.D.I.C. 1255/20).

MOST SECRET. 88

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A.M.C's of Northern Patrol.

It is under consideration that the A.M.C's employed on the Northern Patrol should in future be based on Halifax.

2. If this were done an A.M.C. would proceed from Halifax as ocean escort to an H.X. Convoy to about 23°W. and then proceed to Reykjavik, a total distance of about 2,000 miles, taking 11 to 12 days of which 10 days would be as escort.

3. At Reykjavik the A.M.C. would refuel and proceed to patrol for about 12 days, return to Reykjavik, refuel, and return to Halifax, taking probably 6 days.

4. The round trip would therefore take about thirty days, of which 22 would be spent in effective service. H.X. Convoys leave at alternate 4 & 6 days intervals, and the Northern Patrol A.M.C. would have to leave Halifax about every 10 to 13 days in order to keep one patrol line occupied.

5. With three ships running this could be done, giving them five days in harbour at Halifax. It is considered that four ships would be required in order to allow for maintenance etc.

6. It would be necessary to increase the fuelling facilities at Iceland.

7. Advantages.

(a) The ships do not enter the U-Boat zone at any period during their passage.

(b) They are free from air attack in harbour and at sea.

(c) The congestion in the Clyde would be relieved.

(d) One or two A.M.C's could be released from Halifax to work on the trade routes.

8. Request your remarks.
(A.C.N.S. T. 1751/21 to F.O.C.N.P.)

MOST SECRET.

21. 12. 40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Use of Searchlights against Minelaying A/C.

Your 1252/19. Air Ministry agree that whenever the chance of engaging hostile mine-laying aircraft is enough to outweigh risk of disclosing local features searchlights sited to illuminate such aircraft should engage them.
(Air Ministry. 1756/21 to Adty.)

DELUGE.

At 1130/21. (D.C. 1200/21) At 2330/21. (D.C.2330/21.)

Movements.

More Command Ships out of Action.

My 0746/17. Add BERKELEY at Chatham till about 28/12 and INTREPID at Immingham time unknown (C. in C. Nore 0808/21.)

EGLINTON.

Sailed for Chatham 1010. E.T.A. Sheerness 1300. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1022/21.) Arrived Sheerness 1407 (C. in C. Nore 1550/21.)

MOOLTAN.

My 2330/20. Amend Position K to 56° 40'N. 2° 15' 18"W.(F.O.C.N.P. 1212/21 to MOOLTAN. Sailed unescorted for Tyne.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1245/21 to F.O.C.N.P.) E.T.A.Tyne 0800/23(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1613/21)Route to Tyne from position in latitude W.N.D. in F.O.C.N.P. 2330/20. (C. in C. Rosyth 1901/21 to MOOLTAN.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1520/21.)

ROCKINGHAM.

Delayed by weather. E.T.A. Hartland Point 0330/22 and Plymouth 1500/22. Request Fighter protection during daylight tomorrow from near Longships. (ROCKINGHAM 1828/21. to C. in C. W.A.)

VIMY
SALOPIAN.

My 1300. Unable locate SALOPIAN. Now proceeding to arrive Butt of Lewis 2200 when, if nothing heard, intend steer for original R/V at 12 Knots.(VIMY 1830/21 to M.A.D. H.F.)

PUNJABI.
JERSEY.
JUPITER.

Arrived Plymouth 1110. (C. in C.W.A. 0024/22.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21. 12. 40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Troop Embarkation. GLENGYLE arrived and proceeded up river (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1600/21.)

Iceland. HECLA. HECLA is now required as Depot and Repair Ship in Iceland and not as in my 2208/8/12. To be completed with sufficient W/T gear to permit passage to Iceland, but completion date should not be delayed.(V.C.N.S. 1613/21 to A.S.C.S.S.)

Submarines.

UNIQUE. Expect arrive Position L. 2030/21. (UNIQUE to FOCHA).

H.32. Sailed 21/12 escorted by CLARKIA (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0951/21.) Arrived Rothesay (S.7.1710/21.)

THUNDERBOLT. Arrived Clyde with CUTTY SARK.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1253/21.)

SEAWOLF. Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1353/21.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1445/21.)

L. 23. Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1651/21.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/22. (V.A.S. 1806/21 and 2056/21.)

SEVERN. Adty. 1752/20. In view of Northerly route now being taken by Convoys, propose SEVERN be escorted to Scillies and then proceed independently. (C. in C.W.A. 1858/21 to V.A.S.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Cancel SHARP. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0603/21 to H.Q.F.C.) Following Patrols ordered today: SA.1A., SA.2, SA.3, STAND, and S.9. (C. in C. Rosyth 0802/21.)
2 Blenheim Fighters leave Dyce 0845 to Flamborough Head and return.(C.in C. Rosyth 0804/21.) My 0802/21. Add Patrol BERT.(C. in C. Rosyth 1034/21.) Patrol FAIR will not be flown tonight.(C.in C. Rosyth 1540/21.)

MOST SECRET.

21. 12. 40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Coastal Command. Routine Summary at 0800/21 of 15, 16, and 18 Groups. (H.Q.C.C. 0900/21 to Air Ministry.

Wilhelmshaven. Lorient. Brest. 22 Sqdn. to attack tonight TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven. Alternative Target, Shipping in new inner harbour at Emden.
53 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's at Lorient. Alternative Target, Aerodrome at Rennes.
59 Sqdn. to attack tonight Shipping in Grand Bassin at Brest. Alternative Target. Aerodrome at Rennes. (H.Q.C.C. 1445/21 to 16 Group, North Coates, Thorney Island.)

Bordeaux. 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight with 2 A/C the S/M's in No. 1 Basin at Bordeaux. And 2 A/C to attack tonight A/C at Merignac Aerodrome, Bordeaux. (H.Q.C.C. 1447/21 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Flares in Thames Estuary. Detailed report of 16 Flares dropped for practice from 2109/20 to 2205/20 along track 5 miles East of Swept Channel from N.E. Swin Light. Results and suggestions. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1755/21 to H.Q.C.C.)

Lights off Harwich. Coloured Lights reported to seaward from Harwich. Our A/C with flares to investigate patrolling once from 52° 10' N. 2° E. to 51° 40' N. 2° E. and return. (Chatham 2340/21 to Adty.) A/C will drop Flares between 0030 and 0130 tonight along 2° E. from Aldeburgh Light Vessel to North Falls. (C. in C. Nore 2341/21.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Fair Island. Scapa Flow. At 0920 single enemy aircraft attacked Fair Island one bomb being dropped but no damage or casualties reported. No. R.D.F. plots received before attack. At 0930 a second enemy aircraft identified as Do. 17 or 215 approached Flow from East at 5000 feet and was engaged by ground defences with U.T.F. E/A altered course to south before reaching Flow and retired chased by fighters which had been ordered up. E/A not intercepted due to poor visibility and low cloud, but good plots received throughout.
(A.C.H.Q. 1125/21 to Adty.)

o o o

Convoy. AGENT. Being shadowed by one A/C bearing 150° from Nore Light Vessel. (VIMIERA 1133/21. Position 51 28' N. 0 58' E. Course 045, speed 6knots (Convoy AGENT 1135/21) Being shadowed by one A/C circling Nore Light Vessel. (VIMIERA 1153/21.)

MOST SECRET.

21. 12. 40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.
Following damage caused by air raid night 20/21.

Liverpool Air-Raid. defence.

MAPLIN - Slight fire on main deck from bomb probably oil incendiary which penetrated to engine room S.S. EUROPA fore hatch flooded near miss.S.S.LA PLACE U.X.B. in cargo in No. 3 hold. EASTERN PRINCE damaged by U.X.B.H.M.S. AUSTRALIA near missed 6 feet in Brocklebank graving dock. Dock three-quarter flooded some doubt whether bomb exploded. CAMARIA and BRITANNIC slight damage by I.B. Considerable damage to dock sheds principally at Canada and Huskisson. Estimated at least 12 discharging berths made useless in North Liverpool Docks. Damage to Hydraulic pressure at Hornby Dock and Gladstone, Hornby Langton and Canada system temporarily immobilised. Hoped to restore pressure p.m. today. Further report will be made. No damage Liverpool South Docks and very slight damage Birkenhead Docks.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1725/21 to Adty.)

MAPLIN.
EUROPA
LA PLACE
EASTERN PRINCE
CAMARIA
BRITANNIC.

My 1225/21. Confirm O.B.V. MAPLIN hit by large oil bomb estimated diameter of case about 18". Consider bomb which near missed AUSTRALIA definitely exploded; no damage. Hydraulic pressure restored Gladstone Lock. U.X.B. in SS. LAPLACE located, apparently not larger than 50 kg. but possibly A.A.shell.(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1801/21. to Adty.)

Owing to presence of unexploded mine and suspected unexploded bomb in vicinity of Melias depot, it has been necessary to close depot temporarily. Hoped resume work on Monday morning but this not certain. Unexploded bomb is also in vicinity of sub depot at C.W.S.warehouse and this has also been closed. Frontage of Melias building seriously damaged by blast and offices rendered temporarily untenantable. Temporary arrangements being improvised but some dislocation of work inevitable. Damage to store as yet ascertained is very small.(S.V D.Liverpool 1811/21 to D. of V. Bath.)

WALLACE.

Am being shadowed by Enemy A/C.(WALLACE 1319/21.)

MOST SECRET.

21. 12. 40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

HIBERNIA. My 2224/20. Following from Master S.S. HIBERNIA begins: After passing East Pier I heard aircraft flying low. I ordered all lights out. Within one minute I saw flares then heard whistling bombs followed immediately by flash of an explosion followed by another within a few seconds, I asked for all pin lights to be put out. All passengers were disembarked in darkness. The first bomb dropped on the main road about quarter of a mile from us. Ends. Ship berthed Kingstown at 1936/20. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1958/21 to Adty.)

Explosions and Fireworks In Thames Estuary. Following seen during Night 20/21. (S0.T.L.D.F. 1923/21 to C. in C. Nore.)

Harwich Air-Raid. Attack by single A/C. at 1745 6 H.E's and some incendiaries dropped all round Gate Vessel 2 or 3 of H.E's not yet exploded. At 1759 single A/C dropped 2 H.E's in Harwich one fell centre town damaging property. At 1805 another single a/c dropped 2 H.E's on open ground near Harwich and 2 or 3 other single a/c dropped bombs about this time within a few miles of Harwich. One small H.E. fell foreshore Shotley. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1930/21.)

Harwich Area. Following Flares and Fireballs reliably reported during Night 21/12.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0015/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sheerness Area Night 12/13.

Cdre. Sheerness reports 1 Mine reported dropped by A/C at 2144/12, 23 Mines dropped between 0018/13 and 0310/13, 1 Mine dropped at 0453/13. and 4 Mines at 0630/13. In all 29 Mines were reported dropped and doubtless many more unobserved. Most A/C appeared to be flying above Balloon height which was 3500 feet. Details. (C. in C. Nore 0054/21 and Recd. 0255/21 and 1057/21 to Admty).

My 0054/21 Number of mines accounted for up to present in Medway Thames Area.
(A) Ships sunk or damaged 9, one mine each.
(B) Swept 3 magnetic 6 acoustic making 9.
(C) Spontaneous or sympathetic explosions 22.
Total 40.
With exception of one magnetic mine swept on 14th none of the mines appear to have become active before the 17th. There are probably some more mines in Q Z X 252 which has not been searched.
(C. in C. Nore 1100/21 to Admty).

Liverpool.

Closed owing to suspected Minelaying (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0146/21).

Operation ZMS.9.

To be carried out on Night of 23/12 or as soon after as possible, subject to ADVENTURE not being required by C. in C. W.A. for Operation G.Q.2.
To lay 7 miles 180° from 51° 46' N 6° 21' W.
(A.C.N.S. H.1205/21 to C. in C. W.A. and ADVENTURE.).

Thames Estuary.

Mine detonated by S.A. Gear Type A. at 1435/20, 50 yards South of No. 3. Medway Channel Buoy.
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1546/21 to C. in C. Nore).

Proposed laying of A. Mark I Mines by M.T.B's.

Following considerations and proposals submitted.
(C. in C. Nore 1626/21 to Admty) See Operations Volume.

/Fowey.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (continued).

Fowey and St. Austell Bay. — Ports now open (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1738/21)

RIVER THAMES. — (Tug) Mined and sunk at 1542/21 between sites 11 and 7 to the South of East Nore Sand Buoy. Only one known survivor. No R.A.F. Personnel on board. (952 Sqdn. 1740/21 to B.B. H.Q) (C. in C. Nore 2259/21).

Barge TBC.12. (Motor Barge). — Foundered at 1850 as result of explosion which sank RIVER THAMES. All crew saved (952 Sqdn 1905/21 to 30 Group) (Cdr. Sheerness 1251/22 to Adty).

U.P. Defence against Minelaying A/C. — In view of recent heavy mine laying in area Eastern End Yantlet Channel Thames Estuary trials will be carried out if technically practical of naval 20 barrel up weapon mounted in vessels afloat. These vessels will be linked to A.A. command system and will be under same fire control as A.A. guns.
(Air Ministry 1815/21 to B. and C. Commands).

Adty 0003/19. No objections
(Air Ministry 1820/21 to Adty).

Sweep off Aberdeen. — Intend sailing 12th M/S Group to R/V 10 miles 090° Scurdy Ness at 2300/22 and Search War Channel ahead of convoy E.N. 45 as far as Cruden Scaurs 090° 6 miles, then return to Aberdeen. (H.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1818/21 and 2031/21 to C. in C. Rosyth).

INNISFALLEN — (British, 3071 Tons) Mined at 1640/21 in River Mersey off the Canada Dock Entrance. Ship being beached. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1820/21).

Sheerness. — One Red Mine detonated by L.L. Tugs at 1123/21 in 010° No. 3 Medway Buoy 1½ cables. (Capt M/S Sheerness 1820/21).

SUN IX — (Tug) Mined and sunk about midway between Nos. 1 and 2 Buoys in Yantlet Channel at 1243 today. (C. in C. Nore 2259/21) 1 killed, 1 missing, 4 survivors landed at Southend.
(N.C.S.O.Thames 2358/21 to C. in C. Nore

MOST SECRET.

21.12.1940.
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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Kiel. Result of photographic R/C today. (PIU 2030/21) (PIU 0010 and 0417/22).

Bremen, Bremerhaven, Nordenham, Vegesak. P.R.U. Sortie on 21/12 (PIU 0037/22);

Off Kiel. At 0521/21 A/C saw about 20 Ships anchored without lights 1½ miles due West of Kiel Lightship. (H.Q.B.C. 0437/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

RAMILLIES.

After consultation with C.I.N.C. one 15" gun in "Y" Turret in RAMILLIES has been provisionally condemned and immediate exchange recommended. P Provided unforseen delays are not experienced it is anticipated that gun can be exchanged and work completed p.m. 31st December. There is a large amount of other gun mounting work to be done in this ship but this can not be undertaken unless date of completion of RAMILLIES is postponed until 6/1 or alternatively men are taken off EXETER and EMERALD which will involve corresponding delays in these ships.
Request immediate decision.
(C. in C. W.A. 1225/21 to Adty).

Your 1225/21. Approved to replace right gun of Y. Ship is to be ready to sail on January 4th. As much other gunmounting work as possible should be undertaken while ship is in hand. Consequent delay to EMERALD and EXETER must be accepted if necessary.
(D.O.D.H. 1615/21 to C. in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

H.N. 44. 2230/20. Escorts HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH, additional escort WOLFHOUND. 17 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0007/21)

H.N. 57. 2250/20. Escorts PAYNTER, ARCTIC EXPLORER. 17 ships. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 0939/21) Amend number of ships to 16 (1259/21)

H.N. 57. List. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1511/21)

H.N. 57 O. 1300/21. Escort SAON. 8 ships. To R.V. with "Material". (N.C.S.O.Oban, 1037/21) 1400/21. 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1551/21).

H.X.95. Meet. (C.in C. W.A., 1226/21 to ABERDEEN, WOLVERINE, CAMELLIA, ARBUTUS, COLUMBINE).

O.B.O. 262. Sailing, 0145/25. 12 ships. List. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1231/21).

C.H.20. LOUISE sailed with 6 balloons and minesweeper with 1 Mark 6. (952 Sqdn R.A.F. to Balloon Command, 1330/21) 1049/21. 17 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1411/21, 1625/21) Departures for Ramsgate (N.C.S.O. Thames 1348/21).

F.N. 64. List. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1426/21). Southend 21/12, departure for Harwich with F.S. 64, LARCHOL and TURQUOISE. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1439/21).

F.S. 66. Sailed 1400/21 - 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1545/21) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1638/21) Code word after passing Tyne - Area 2. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2254/21) 4 ships and 1 trawler from Humber joining. (C.in C. Rosyth 2052/21)

O.B.M. 263. Sailed 1618/21. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. 6. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1645/21) List (1700/21) Proceeded to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1750/21).

O.B.M. 264. Sailing 1340/23. ROSEMARY. 10. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1645/21).

H.X.96. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D., 1700/21) Not to arrive at R.V. till 0900/27. (C.in C. W.A. 1908/21 to RANPURA).

O.B. 263. F.O.I.C's 0146/21 (Port of Liverpool closed.) O.B. 263 delayed 24 hours. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1705/21, C.in C. W.A., 1852/21) My 1839/19. O.B. 263 will not disperse till 25° 00' W. is reached. (D.T.D., 1902/21).

/ F.N. 63. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys. (Contd.)

Shipping. (Contd.)

F.N. 64 and F.S. 66.

Additional escort, WIDGEON.

O.B. 262.

Londonderry departures 21/12 BROKE, SHIKARI, SARDONYX, LA MALOUINE, HELIOTROPE, ANEMONE, ST. KENAN, ST. ZENO for O.B.262. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0947/21).

W.N. 56.

W.N.56 expected time of arrival Rattray Head 2000. Request all lights. (GAVOTTE 1059/21).

W.N.56.

Scapa departures 1045 ALYNBANK for Convoy W.N. 56. (A.C.O.S. 1101/21).

H.X. 95.

Meet H.X.95 unescorted, 24 ships 1000/23. (C.in C. W.A. 1152/21 to ABERDEEN, WOLVERINE, CAMELLIA, ARBUTUS, COLUMBINE.)

Troops.

Your 93423 (Q(M)2) 18/12. Further to 277/2 of 20th. Agree no troops to be embarked. Movements Commandeth Lisburn 1217/21, to W.O.).

S.L.60.

Sailing telegram. S.L.(slow) 60. 1100 G.M.T./21. Commodore Swabey R.N.R. ST. CLEARS (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1329/21).

2 M.V's.

My 1443/21 (re 2 M.V's escorted by LORD ESSENDEN and RUBY), sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1736/21).

?

Southbound Convoy 1500/21. Escort LADY LILLIAN. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1750/21).

E.N. 45.
W.N. 58.

Sail at 1415/22 for Methil. Act subsequently as additional A/A escort to E.N. 45 sailing at 1830/22. On meeting transfer to W.N. 58 due Cape Wrath 0530/24 and Duncansby 1530/24. Code word for E.N. 45 "night" and for W.N. "metric". (C.in C. Rosyth 1801/21 to JASCE).

KENT.

KELVIN and KIPLING should meet you at 1000 B.S.T./23. Route to Plymouth. Fighter protection will be arranged. (C.in C. W.A., 1846/21, to KENT.)

F.N. 65.

Convoy F.N. 65, 0900/22, ships to date 29, additional escort A/S Trawler SAPPHIRE, BASSET and TURQUOISE joining from Harwich. (C.in C. Nore 2146/21 to WALLACE, VIVIEN).

C.W.20.
Shelled.

C.W.20 passed Dover at 2110. Batteries at Wi ? and Gris Nes fired about sixteen rounds between 2057 and ? of which six fell in Dover Harbour and one probably behind the town. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A. Dover 2325/21, amended no T.O.O./22).

/ Convoy Cycles. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoy Cycles.

Your 2158/20. Concur proposals.
Assume no convoy will exceed 40 ships.
Following are my remarks on part (iv)
O.C. Convoys do not disperse.
H.G. 49 will be met on (date) and H.G.50 on (date) not H.G.60. (C.in C. W.A. 1218 /21, to Admty.)

Independent Sailings.

Cancel my 1157/15/11 and amend para. (a) of my 1612/19 to read as follows.
(A) All independently sailed ships between the U.K. and North America and West Indies are to be routed so as to cross 25° W. between 59° 30' N. and 63° N. and are not to be routed south of 59° 30' N. between meridians of 25° W. and 15° W. Those sailing between the U.K. and S. Atlantic and West African ports are to be routed so as to cross 40° N. between 19° W. and 33° W., keeping out of sight of land when passing or proceeding through the Azores, and to the Westward of 25° W. when north of 50° N. These ships should cross 25° W. between 56° N. and 59½° N. and may pass north or south of but not less than 70 miles from Rockall.
Care should be taken not to establish focal points particularly in the neighbourhood of 56° N. and 25° W.
(D.T.S. 1859/21 to N.C.S.O's).

Troop Convoys.

T.C.S.

Your 1909/14 and C.C.A.C. Halifax's 0253/17, request confirmation that COLUMBIA is in T.C.S. and what numbers are on board.
(D. of S.T. 0201/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

My 0155/17 following are details of numbers on board vessels of T.C.S. PASTEUR, CAPETOWN CASTLE and PENNLAND. Dutch vessel COLUMBIA is also included in T.C.S. with troops on board and details will be signalled later.
Details of commercial cargo on board all vessels will also be signalled.
(D.S.T. 0205/21, to F.S.T.O. Clyde, D.S.T.O. Glasgow).

T.C.S.

Undermentioned destroyers are to meet convoy T.C.S in position 57° 00' N. 22° 00' W. at 1300/22 B.S.T. and escort to Clyde in two portions as follows:-
(A) OTTAWA (S.O.), ST. LAURENT. LE TRIOMPHANT, PICRUN, WORCESTER WATCHMAN escort PASTEUR, CAPETOWN CASTLE speed eighteen knots.

(B) BATH (S.O.) ST.MARY'S, MONTGOMERY, WITHERINGTON, WITCH speed 13½ knots.
(C.in C. W.A. 1304/21, to FERVENCE, OTTAWA, BATH).

/ Twelve hours ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Troop Convoys.(Contd.)

Twelve hours after parting company report position course and speed of convoy T.C.S.

T.C.S. — For CAPETOWN CASTLE only. If not met by escort at rendezvous your convoy is to continue on approach course for 67 miles. (D.T.D. 1330/21 to C.B.M.S. Area 1).

T.C.S. — Following sent to CAPETOWN CASTLE. If not met by escort at rendezvous your convoy is to continue on approach course for 67 miles. (D.T.D. 1330/21 to C.B.M.S. Area 1).

T.C.S. — Following sent to CAPETOWN CASTLE. If not met by escort at rendezvous your convoy is to continue on approach course for 67 miles 1330/21. (D.T.D. 2046/21 to C.in C. W.A.).

W.S.5A. — My 2230/20. From position 054 degs. 10' North 025 degs. 00' West W.S.5A Fast and Slow proceed as one convoy speed 11 knots. (V.A.N.P. 1230/21 to Western Patrol).

W.S.5A. — My 1603/21 (Sailing of DUNEDIN to R/V with W.S.5A.) sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1921/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French Repatriees.

Your 1054/20. I was instructed that it was most urgent I should obtain ships to repatriate French nationals from Freetown. After lengthy negotiations with Portuguese authorities and shipping companies the COMPANHIA COLONIAL agreed to take these troops on my undertaking that they would not be interfered with by our patrols due to fact that they were calling at Casablanca. In fulfilment of this pledge I sent my signal to F.O.C. N.A. as I thought it quite probable that our patrols, if they saw this ship apparently breaking our blockade, would seize her whether she carried a navicert or not. Regret I did not make position clear to F.O.C. N.A. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1215/21 to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

BERWICK.

Your 1806/20. Intend to sail BERWICK 1600/21 to join convoy A.N. 24/12. (F.O.C. N.A. 1014/21 to Admty.)

Gibraltar arrival 0803/21 departure 1600 BERWICK to join W.S.5A in accordance with her 0740/19. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1048/21).

H.M.S. BERWICK sailed to rendesvous with you during daylight a.m. 24/12. (F.O.C.N.A., 1840/21 to F.O.C. 15th C.S.).

BERWICK sailed 1600/21 routed through 036° 00' N. 011° 00' W. 046° 00' N. 026° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 2141/21).

CIRCASSIA.

My 1130/20 CIRCASSIA bent starboard propeller while berthing. Divers' examination shows necessity of fitting spare propeller. Intend docking ship 24/12 and cleaning bottom, which is due. Anticipate ship will be ready for service p.m. 28/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1208/21 to Admty.)

Enemy Convoy. Bordeaux. Lisbon.

1927/16. Reference British Consul Lisbon Affar 959 16/12. It is probable that convoy would be forced to navigate outside three mile limit on Portuguese coast only between 4128 and 4142 north as sea breaks heavily in depths up to 25 fathoms if there is any swell. (N.A. Lisbon, 1233/21 to Admty.)

/ UPHOLDER,
USK
UNIQUE. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

UPHOLDER.
USK.
UNIQUE.

UPHOLDER course position and speed 1200 21/12 037° 54' N. 010° 55' W. 132° 8 knots routed through 036° 46' N. 009° 22' W. to Gibraltar. USK position course and speed 1200 21/12 040° 42' N. 010° 40' W. 180° 8 knots route as for UPHOLDER. UNIQUE expected to have crossed 041° 00' N. in meridian 010° 45' W. at 0001 21/12 speed 8 knots route as for UPHOLDER. (F.O.C.N.A. 1431/21 to BRIDPORT).

UNIQUE

Your 0830/21 adjust speed to R/V 1100/22 in 260° Cape Trafalgar 25 miles with HRIN who will escort you to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1628/21 to UNIQUE).

Daily Summary Operations.

2 routine A.S. patrols. (200 Group, 1710/21 to Air Min.)

Suspicious Ship.

Position 38° 38' N. 22° 32' W. THALA sighted suspicious ship 1730 G.M.T. (Via Lyness 1735/21).

Following has been read:-
Confirmation ? ? ? 20/21 cancel My 17 (? group omitted) 21 vessel identified. (THALA, 1950/21 to Gibraltar W/T). Remainder of message undecypherable. Presumably refers to 1735/21 received via Lyness W/T.

DURHAM,
MONARCH OF BERMUDA
ALICE ROBERT

DURHAM Capetown 8/12 Liverpool 14 knots 009° S. 012° W. 009° N. 021° W. 016° N. 021° W. 029° N. 022° W. 038° N. 023° W. MONARCH OF BERMUDA Freetown 12/12 Liverpool 17 knots 011° 25' N. 020° 08' W. 022° 58' 022° 38' 035° 20' 021° 17' 048° 35' 024° 50'. French ALICE ROBERT Dakar 17/12 Northward. Four French submarines left Dakar 16/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1912/21).

South Atlantic.

Enemy Raider.

Admiralty's 2316. There are indications that an enemy surface unit in area probably J 36 A and I 36 C. (C.in C. S.A. 0009Z/21 to HERMES).

My 0009/Z. More reliable indications suggest square J 35 B and D. 45% probability within 10 miles either side of a line joining position 010° 30' S. 013° 40' W. and 012° 20' S. 015° 20' W. (C.in C. S.A. 0205 Z/21 to HERMES).

My 2316/20. Additional bearings:- Freetown 001/1. Ascension 340/3 (flat). (D.D.I.C. 0315/21 to C.in C. S.A.).

By D/F 0059/21 G.M.T. enemy surface vessel indicated in area 35° N. to 43° N. 47° W. to 57° W.
Bearings:- Simonstown 308/2. Freetown 325/2. Bermuda 050/3. (D.D.I.C. 0904/21 to Force K).

/ If raider was .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

UPHOLDER,
USK,
UNIQUE.

UPHOLDER course position and speed 1200 21/12 037° 54' N. 010° 55' W. 132° 8 knots routed through 036° 46' N. 009° 22' W. to Gibraltar. USK position course and speed 1200 21/12 040° 42' N. 010° 40' W. 180° 8 knots route as for UPHOLDER. UNIQUE expected to have crossed 041° 00' N. in meridian 010° 45' N. at 0001 21/12 speed 8 knots route as for UPHOLDER. (F.O.C.N.A. 1431/21 to BRIDPORT).

UNIQUE

Your 0030/21 adjust speed to R/V 1100/22 in 260° Cape Trafalgar 25 miles with ERIN who will escort you to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1628/21 to UNIQUE).

Daily Summary Operations.

2 routine A.S. patrols. (200 Group, 1710/21 to Air Min.)

Suspicious Ship.

Position 38° 58' N. 22° 32' W. THALA sighted suspicious ship 1730 G.M.T. (Via Lyness 1735/21).

Following has been read:- Confirmation ? ? ? 20/21 cancel My 17 (? group omitted) 21 vessel identified. (THALA, 1950/21 to Gibraltar W/T). Remainder of message undecypherable. Presumably refers to 1735/21 received via Lyness W/T.

DURHAM,
MONARCH OF BERMUDA
ALICE ROBERT

DURHAM Capetown 8/12 Liverpool 14 knots 009° S. 012° W. 008° N. 021° W. 016° N. 021° W. 029° N. 022° W. 038° N. 023° W. MONARCH OF BERMUDA Freetown 12/12 Liverpool 17 knots 011° 25' N. 020° 08' W. 022° 58' 022° 38' 035° 30' 021° 17' 048° 35' 024° 50'. French ALICE ROBERT Dakar 17/12 Northward. Four French submarines left Dakar 18/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1912/21).

South Atlantic.

Enemy Raider.

Admiralty's 2316. There are indications that an enemy surface unit in area probably J 36 A and I 36 C. (C.in C. S.A. 0003N/21 to HERMES).

My 0009/N. More reliable indications suggest square J 35 B and D. 45% probability within 10 miles either side of a line joining position 010° 30' S. 013° 40' W. and 012° 20' S. 013° 20' W. (C.in C. S.A. 0205 N/21 to HERMES).

My 2316/20. Additional bearings:- Freetown 001/1. Ascension 340/3 (flat). (D.D.I.C. 0315/21 to C.in C. S.A.).

By D/F 0059/21 G.M.T. enemy surface vessel indicated in area 35° N. to 43° N. 47° W. to 57° W.
Bearings:- Simonstown 309/2. Freetown 325/2. Bermuda 050/3. (D.D.I.C. 0904/21 to Force K).

/ If raider was .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

If raider was not near line given in 0205/21 at 2108 2/20 next most likely areas are in order of probability of vicinity of 018° S. 013° W. or 029° ? S. 011° W. (C.in C. S.A. 0959/21 to HERMES).

Your 0004/21. Uncorrected north westerly bearings from Freetown often contain plus errors. Correction minus 8° should probably have been applied. This suggests most likely area enclosed by line joining position 042° N. 032° W. 040° N. (?049°) W. 037° 30' N. 054° 30' W. 039° N. 056° W.
(C.in C. S.A. 1113/21 to Admty.)

HAWKINS. NEPTUNE.

805. As it appears likely raider is South it is for consideration if other escort can be provided for W.S. five A that HAWKINS should be (? retained) either (? to ? reinforce) force L or form a group with DEVONSHIRE due Simonstown 27/12. HAWKINS sails from Simonstown for Freetown 21/12 and for present will be available for either purpose. If more definite information becomes available that raider is South rather than North NEPTUNE might be used for W.S.5A.
(C.in C. S.A. 1251/21 to Admty.)

Enemy Raider. Force K.

0006/19 Admiralty. Force K to proceed from 039° 30' N. 033° 20' W. on route approximately through 032° N. 028° W. 015°N. 027° W. thence to Freetown and carry out search on passage. Traffic between U.K. and South except for route of convoy S.L.60 lies east of a line between eastern extremity of Azores and Cape Verde Is. Object is to cover an area to west of this traffic through which a raider might approach to attack traffic and to be in position on passage to take advantage of any raider reports from traffic area. Request Admiralty inform me when Force K sailed or will sail in order that destroyer rendezvous may be arranged.
(C.in C. S.A. 1221R/21 to S.O. Force K).

Your 1221/21. 1700 18/12.
(D.O.D.(F) 2246/21 to C.in C. S.A.).

CARNARVON CASTLE. Capetown arrival 20/12.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 07032/21).

LORHASTON Overdue ships my 1015 20/12 LORHASTON arrived Durban. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 09358/21).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

QUEEN ADELAIDE. Overdue shipping. QUEEN ADELAIDE departure Milford Haven 17/11 for Alexandria via Cape not reported Cape. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0945Z/21).

A/C Transport. Air Min. has informed R.A.F. Takoradi 1735/20 that FURIOUS carries 40 Hurricanes with certain spares which will be flown off, also 4 stressed skin Hurricane mainplanes 80 guns 46 cases valves to be unloaded at Freetown for onward passage to Takoradi.
Presume you can arrange for DELHI to embark these items for transport to Takoradi during operation "Monsoon". (D.O.D.(P) 1144/21 to C.in C. S.A.)

GUINE Your 2043/17. N.C.S.O. Lisbon's 1616/19 reported Portuguese ship GUINE arriving Freetown about 31/12 to repatriate 330 persons. Ministry of Shipping are requesting him to charter further ship to take remaining 200. (Head of M. 1252/21).

CARNARVON CASTLE repairs. C.in C. S.A. 1305/16.
(1) Investigation by Dockyard Officers shows that damage to internal installations such as fire control, fire main, sanitary system degaussing, etc., is greater than originally anticipated although damage to structure is not so serious since temporary repairs at Monte Video.
(2) The following are alternative proposals.
(a) Time required to make good action damage at Capetown three months. At end of this period it would be desirable to dock ship at Simonstown for one week. Main engine refit could be done concurrently with damage repairs provided spare parts from U.K. are delivered by early February. Other refitting work would extend time probably by six weeks.
(b) Alternatively temporary repairs could be limited to what can be done concurrently with degaussing. Time required three and a half weeks. Some main engine defects could be done concurrently but major defects could not be done owing to lack of spare parts from U.K.
(c) A second alternative is to send ship elsewhere in her present condition.

/ (3) ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CARNARVON CASTLE
repairs. (Contd.)

(3) I recommend proposal in para 2(b) but would point out that ship could not be considered a fully efficient fighting unit and that escort may be necessary if proceeding to U.K.
(S.N.O. Simonstown, 1543Z/21 to C.in C. S.A.).

Foreign Legion
Movement.

My 1943/11 and previous signals on this subject. Following arrangements made. FORT LAMY with Motor Transport 80 personnel of Foreign Legion left Duala 19/12 bunkering Port Harcourt embarked at Point Noire six officers and 60 Moroccan thence to Port Sudan via Cape. Remainder of French Legion personnel will sail from Duala 24/26 in TOUAREG and CAPOOLMO for Freetown and transhipment to NEURALIA.
Exhaustive enquiry shows that nothing is known of existence of French Brigade referred to in Director of Sea Transport's 2102/11 my 1951/12 and Admty. 2324/13.

ARNDALE.
NEWCASTLE.

Your 2115Z/18 fuelling completed ammunition transferred. ARNDALE anchored pig. Expected to arrive position 025° 30' S. 012° W. at 0830P/22.
(NEWCASTLE, 2241Z/21 to R.A.S.A.D.).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Castel Benito Aerodrome.

Attack on by 9 Wellingtons 148 Sqdn., 2320-2350/20, (4) and 0050-0130/21 (5). Special operational Summary I, 172. (H.Q. R.A.F. Mediterranean 0730/21).

Social Relations Egypt.

Chiefs of Staff No.36 to C.in C's re fostering friendly personnel relations with Egyptions. (I.S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1546/21).

Military Convoy.

Summary of cargoes in "Excess" ships - armaments, ammunition and aircraft. (D.O.D.(F) 2124/21 to C.in C. Med.)

Fast Personnel Ships.

Remarks on Adty. 2324/14/11 as to forces required. (C.in C. Med. 1945/21 to Adty) See Med. Vol.

Attack on Tripoli.

I.173 21/12. Special operational Summary night 20/21. 10 Swordfish 830 Squadron F.A.A. despatched to attack Tripoli Harbour. 6 carried cucumbers and 4 carrying total load 22 bombs of 250 pounds each and 14 incendiaries. At 0403 cucumber aircraft detached in vicinity of Ras Ta Jura at 6,000 feet. Cucumber aircraft lost touch with leaders whilst losing height and all aircraft dropped cucumbers independently - 4 appeared planted south of main channel - 2 definitely in channel. Bomber flight proceeded to position 3 miles south of town when formation broke up and attacked at 2 minute intervals after first flare. 8 bombs fell in sea. 6 bombs on seaplane station. 1 bomb on road short of hangar. Direct hits on main hangar followed aided by minor explosions same hangar. 2 bombs on slipway. Fire seen during all 20 minutes when aircraft over target. 8 bombs fell on landing quay northern Mole of which 6 on warehouses. Small fires seen near warehouses by subsequent aircraft A.A. fire heavy and fairly accurate over target. Firing observed from at least 2 Guns situated around town. Light A.A. ineffective being directed against flares Cucumber aircraft not attacked. Searchlights nil. Weather conditions All aircraft returned untouched by A.A. (H.Q. Malta, 1100/21).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Air Report.

1. Egypt. (R.A.F. operations in Libya, no naval items).
2. Greece. Operations against Brindisi night 19/20th Dec. and Berat day 20/12 reported in H.Q. B.A.F. Greece signal A.225 Day 20.9. Gladiators intercepted large number of enemy bombers escorted by many fighters and shot down 2 S.79's and 1 S.81 confirmed damaging others. Locality of interception not reported.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1232/21).

TRITON NARVAL Cost.

Regret to report TRITON and French submarine NARVAL are now overdue three and four days respectively and must be presumed lost. TRITON was operating in Southern Adriatic and French Submarine NARVAL off East coast of Tunisia.
(C.in C. Med. 1357/21).

Malta Air Report.

'I' 170 21/12. Combined services report Malta up to 17 hours 21/12. All times G.M.T. Glenn Martin photographic reconnaissance Naples. 2 battleships moored along north side of Molo Angloiro. 4 cruisers, one of which is in dry dock. 2 destroyers, 2 M/V's 5,000 proceeding from Pantellaia northwards. Glenn Martin photographic reconnaissance Spezia. 1 Cavour battleship, 2 Condottieri B class c cruise s, 1 Trento class cruiser, 5 modern destroyers, 3 smaller destroyers, 1 submarine. Considerable M/V shipbuilding along N.E. shore. 2 M/V's 4,000 tons and several smaller. 20 miles north of Maritiem Aegedean Islands - 1 submarine on surface course 140 towards Palermo. Photos taken Spezia 3,000 feet. Glenn Martin photographic reconnaissance Tripoli. In harbour - 3 destroyers. 3 torpedo boat destroyers, 3 M/V's 8,000 tons, 8 M/Vs 6000 tons, 6 smaller M/V's weather fine. Photos taken 16,000 feet. No opposition. 16.08 - 15.00 Sunderland reconnaissance western Ionian Sea for enemy shipping. No ships seen. Operations by Wellington 148 Squadron night 20/21/12. Against Castel Benito reported in my 'I' 172 21/12 and b Swordfish No. 30 Squadron against Tripol' night 20/21/12. In my 'I' 173 21/12. No enemy air activity over Malta today.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta. 1700/21).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Dodecanese.

Your 0012/19. It is confirmed that Rhodes and Kos were the two islands mentioned in my 1651 of 11th December.
(C.in C. Med. 1921/21 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Source (B.3.) reports five German merchant vessels carrying German troops sailed from Trieste yesterday evening for unknown destination. Persistent rumours of German troop movements into North of Italy continue here. (A.N.A.Belgrade 1218/21 to C.in C. Med.) N.I.D. Note. Several reports were received at the end of November of troops having embarked on German ships at Trieste but no confirmation has been forthcoming that German troops were included. Many unconfirmed rumours of the presence of German troops in Trieste have also been received and it is therefore possible that this new report may be true.

Shore-Based Air Recco. Inadequate.

Again draw attention to inadequate shore based air reconnaissance in Mediterranean. This is due to no fault of those concerned in its operation but to shortage of aircraft We have been carrying out important operations of passing through MALAYA and 2 M.T. ships to Western Mediterranean without any idea of whereabouts of main Italian unit (See Adty. 1742/20 para.(b)). Unless this reconnaissance can be improved it would be unwise to carry out any operations of type proposed in Adty. 2524 of 24/11.
(C.in C. Med. 1941/21 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CARTHAGE. CARTHAGE sailed in accordance with C.in C. East Indies' 1128/19. (to cover trade routes and then to Bombay after 24th Dec., for refit).
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0852Z/21 to Adty etc.)

Force "Assurance". Force "Assurance" will be ready to sail Bombay 23/1/41 for Port Sudan. Consisting four personnel and four M.T. ships. Names will be given later.
(S.S.T.O. India (Bombay 1055Z/21 to C.in C. E.I.)

FALMOUTH SEABELLE. My 0608/16. para 2., the periods to be spent by FALMOUTH and SEABELLE at Bombay will be regarded as annual refit and docking periods and all defects should be made good.
(C.in C. E.I. 1246Z/21 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf etc.).

COLOMBO. Mogadishu. My 1456/20. COLOMBO reports no shipping at Mogadishu.
(C.in C. E.I. 1628Z/21 to Adty etc.)

Assab. Air Raid. Summary No. 192 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 21/12. 3 Blenheims 8 Squadron attacked Harsile pumping station 3½ miles south of Assab Salt pans at 1010 G.M.T. no direct hits, damage improbable,
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1700/21).

Free French Movements. From De Schompre for De Gaulle. No.37 A.M. starting organisation committee. (Appointments). I leave the committee of Batavia as it is. I am asking all those committees to send me their financial requirements.
(C.in C. China, 0213Z/21 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

KONGSO.
ELSIE
MOLLER.
(Br.
1136 tons).

British ship KONGSO chartered to Chinese having cleared for Haikow 1/12 proceeding to Wenchow against express instructions from N.C.S.O. When at anchor off Wenchow Point 4/12 ship was boarded by Japanese who demanded ship's papers and disabled one engine by removal of the heavy part of the machinery. On leaving they took Russian Master and Charterer's representative to Destroyer. ELSIE MOLLER in company weighed escaped into Wenchow. Same night Destroyer bombarded shore forts near by endangering berth whereon Chief Officer weighed proceeded into Wenchow where ship now remains. Am informed Master and Chinese now held on board German Mohlenhof detained at Tinghai. Chatereres claim to have had permit to enter Wenchow from Japanese Chamber of Commerce. Hence protested and demanded immediate return of personnel and machinery. Have also pretested recent removal of main stop valve of EDITH MOLLER now under detention at Tinghai.
(N.L.O. Shanghai, 0303/21 to C.in C. China).

America and West Indies.

Laying of A/S device in Gulf of Paria.

Following from British Minister Caracas begins: So far as I am concerned laying of A/S device in Gulf of Paria can proceed. In view of probable Venizuela protest loop laying should be done as unnoticeably as possible since while I am prepared to express regret for violation of Venezuela waters by our ships and to explain reason in general terms the presence of A/S device if included in protest will necessitate very deliecate negatiations and if there is any possibility of device being laid undetected and so remaining I should much prefer position of GAINER. Ends. Request permission to proceed with laying of loops 6 and 7.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 0947/21 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Enemy Raider.

D/F bearings indicate enemy surface vessel in area 035° N., to 043° N., 047° W to 057° W at 0059Z/21. Keep as far to Westward as possible without delaying arrival at junction with H.X.98.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1041/21 to VOLTAIRE).

My 1041/21. Amend possible enemy area to read area enclosed by line joining 042° N., 052° W., 040° N., 049° W., 037° 30'N., 054° 30'W., 039° N., 056° W.
On completion of fuelling search at 18 knots direct towards B.H.X.98 junction position 044° 55'N., 051° 55' W. At sunset 23/12 alter course to pass through (a) 041° N., 051° W (b) 038° N., 055° W., thence return to Bermuda.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1551/21 to CARADOC).

HOPEPEAK, KOTA AGOENG.

HOPEPEAK sailed Townsville 12/11 KOTA AGOENG sailed Penang 17/12 have not arrived Panama.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 1041/21 to Adty).

MALOJA.

S.C.17 Ocean Escort MALOJA instructed to leave Convoy 36 hours before arrival at rendezvous to return to Halifax.
(F.O. 3rd B.S. 1201/21 to Adty).

HAMILTON.

Your 2041/11/11, my 1711/23/11. It is assumed Admiralty will pay cost of repairs as a result of damage caused by stranding HAMILTON at St. John NB. Canada to pay for alterations and additions to fit her for use in R.C.N. as in the case of other Town Class Ex-American taken over by us.
(C.N.S. Canada 1239/21 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

SALISBURY, RICHMOND, NEWPORT.

SALISBURY, RICHMOND, NEWPORT arrived here 1500.
(N.O.I.C. St. John's 1245/21).

Dutch Submarines.

N.C.S.O. Mersey and Glasgow are instructing masters that Dutch S/M's are frequently on patrol in the vicinity Curacao and Aruba. S.N.O. Curacao reports no longer on patrol.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 1750/21 to Adty).

CARADOC.

Bermuda 21/12 CARADOC arrived 1300 Q sailed 1700 Q in accordance with my 1551/21 (C.in C. A.W.I. 1803/21).

Halifax Force.

Your 1831/21. Intend proceeding in RESTIGOUCHE with ASSINIBOINE COLUMBIA and ST. FRANCIS at 0400/22 arriving position 039° N., 056° W. at daylight 23/12 thence sweeping to North Eastward.
(S.O. Halifax Force, 2310/21 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Force K.

Your 2151/14 and my 0005/19. Force K. is now proceeding to Freetown. Admiralty intention is to direct the general area in which Force K. is to operate and then place the force under the detailed direction of the C.in C. concerned.
(D.O.D.(F) 2339/21 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.

Nauru Raider.

Your 1436/20, It has been decided that no publicity will be given at present to raider incident at Nauru and any messages for Press arriving here will be stopped. Phoscom Cheltenham will be informed confidentially of Minister's statement for private information of next of kin and also of above decision.
(D.P.D. 2127/21 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

21.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand.

MONOWAI
A.P.I.

Departure Auckland 2215Z/21 H.M.S. MONOWAI for Convoy A.P.1.
(S.O.I. Wellington, 2331Z/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HEINRICH ARP. Left Ferrol 0001/21, destination unknown. (Oregatt, Coruna, 1010/21). Informing North Atlantic Station. (F.O.C.N.A. 1506/21). Informing S/M's on Patrol, Area B, (V.A.S., 2111/21).

RHEINSBURG. Yokohama reports sailed p.m./20. (C.O.S., Singapore, 0629/21).

VARNA. Arrived in ballast for bunkering. (Varna, 1200/21).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MAYA Arrived with 5000 tons gas oil from Batoum. (Varna, 1200/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

PENDRECHT.
(torpedoed 18/12)

Arrived LEGION escorting torpedoed tanker PENDRECHT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0308/21).

FARNSUM
(torpedoed 2/12)

Arrived ANDUSCADE with 15 injured of FARNSUM. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0737/21).

O.G. 47.
Convoy.

O.G.47 attacked at 2117 in 40.47 N., 16.47 W. Am not in contact. Search being made with star shell. (LEITH, 2146/21 to F.O.C.N.A.) Informing North Atlantic Station. (F.O.C.N.A., 2345/21).

Submarines Reported.

0810.

1 s/m bearing 340° distance 1 mile, course unknown, my position 56.20 N., 16.26 W. (ARGUS to Plymouth W/T, 0810/21). My 0810/21). My 0810, HIGHLANDER is investigating. (ARGUS, 0830/21) U/B sighted by ARGUS (position). Carry out search with your destroyers for as long as fuel permits. (C.in C. H.F., 0957/21, to BEDOUIN). Informing BEDOUIN that HIGHLANDER is also investigating. (C.in C. W. A. 1134/21).

1038.

Probable U/B south of Freetown, most likely position within 50 miles of 01° N., 11° W. (C.in C. S.A., 1038/21 to C.B.M.S., SA).

0800/20.

Graded as known fact, s/m on surface 6 miles N.W. Smalls at 0800/20 steaming fast S.S.W. (Dublin, 1210/21 to Admty.)

1447.

D.F., U-boat report 58½° to 59°N., 17° to 17½° W., good fix. (C.in C. W.A., 1530/21 to ships in W. App. North).

1622.

D.F., at 1522/21 G.M.T. Italian U/B within 50 miles of great circle joining 42° N., 17° W., and 35° N., 22° W. (D.D.I.C. 1730/21).

2014.

D.F., at 1914/21 G.M.T., estimated position of U/B in vicinity of 34°15' N., 16° 20' W. (D.D.I.C., 2349/21).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian. 1 may still be to westward of Madeira.
1 or 2 patrolling in Azores area.
1 probably Italian off Cape Juby.
4 in N.W. Approaches between 54 degrees N. and 47 degrees N. 17 degrees W. and 20 degrees W. of which 2 or more may be between 55 degrees N. and 56 degrees N. 18 degrees 30' W. and 20 degrees W.

/ German ...

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (contd.)	German.	1 or 2 to westward of Sierra Leone. Possibly 1 to southeastward of Rockall. 1 in 56 degrees 30' N. 16 degrees 25' W. at 0810/21. Possibly 1 to northwestward of Rockall. 3 between 20 degrees W. and 22 degrees W. may be respectively about 58 degrees N. 59 degrees N. and 60 degrees N.

(D.D.I.C. 1237/21.).

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MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Dutch T.B.L.7. — To be paid off at Portsmouth.
(D.C.D.H. 1253/22 to C. in C.W.A.)

Use of Searchlights against.

Minelaying A/C. — Air Ministry and Admiralty agree that it is desirable that hostile mine-laying aircraft should be engaged by A.A. Defences whenever there is a reasonable chance of success and that attainment of this object outweighs risk that searchlights may disclose to enemy local features of objectives in their endeavours to illuminate target aircraft. Please issue orders therefore to effect that those searchlights sited to illuminate hostile mine-laying aircraft may engage such aircraft whenever conditions are suitable. (H.C.F.C. 1540/22. to A.A. Command.

U.P. weapons against Minelaying A/C. — In view of recent hostile mine-laying activities in Eastern part of Yantlet Channel of Thames Estuary special vessels mounting naval twenty barrel U.P. weapons are being sited for protection against these activities. These vessels will be linked to A.A.Command shore system and will be under same fire control as A.A. guns. To reduce possible risk of these or other vessels opening fire on our own fighters operating low over Thames Estuary 11 group is to arrange to notify command operations officer before any such operations commence at night. Command operations officer will pass information immediately to Chatham area combined headquarters via direct lines of N.L.O. or C.C.L.O. at these headquarters.
(H.C.F.C. 1540/22 to A.A. Command.

Request your views on proposals as a whole.
(D. of L.D. 1856/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. — At 1130/22. (D.C. 1154/22).
At 2330/22. (D.C. 2359/22).

Movements.

KEPPEL. — Sailed. E.T.A. Scapa 2230/22.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0926/22.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22. 12. 40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

VETERAN. Sailed 0900 (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0952/22.)

UNDAUNTED. Due sail for Clyde 29/12. E.T.A. Barrow 1000/28. Request Escort.(N.O.I.C.Barrow 1123/22 to C. in C.N.A.)

VIMY. Arrived Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 1135/22.)

ROXBOROUGH. E.T.A. 1500/22. (ROXBOROUGH 1150/22 to N.O.I.C. Belfast) Arrived (F.O.I.C.Belfast 1515/22.)

COTSWOLD. Intend sailing 1730/22. E.T.A. Rosyth 0700/23. (R.A.D. 1435/22.) Sailed from Scapa (A.C.O.S. 1747/22.)

SALADIN. Arrived 1525. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1525/22.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. 4 trawlers. (F.O.C.O.S. 1539/22.)

ROCKINGHAM. Arrived Plymouth 1500 (C. in C. W.A. 1646/22.)

SALOPIAN. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1755/22.)

Operations.

Iceland. H.M.T. VAN OOST sailed Reydarfjordur. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1201/22.)

H.U. Patrol. My 0920/22. Patrol not covered. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1717/22.)

Western Patrol. Orders for CANITO, MARON, CAVINA, CIRCASSIA. (F.O.C.W.P. 1800/22.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22. 12. 40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

SEALION. Leaving 1100. Proceeding Northwards. (C. in C. Rosyth 0854/22.)

O.14. Arrived Dundee. (S.9. 1127/22.)

H.34. Request inclusion in W.W. Convoy sailing Clyde to Methil (S.7. 1134/22. to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1510/22.)

MINERVE. Intend sail 1630/23 for Holy Loch with STELLA POLARIS (C. in C. W.A. 1554/22.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/23. (V.A.S. 1639/22.) (D.C. 1833/22.)

TRIBUNE. Attacked tanker with trawler and air escort course 140° in 046° 46' N 002° 38' W. at 1121/16. Also M/V escorted by one German HOWE class destroyer course 50° position 047° 21' N 004° 14' at 1012/19. Results of both attacks uncertain. Trawler patrol steering N.E. of 046° 51' N. 002° 14' W. at 2125/17 was only anti submarine patrol encountered. (TRIBUNE 1748/22 to Capt. S.2.)

Attacks on M/V's.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. 2 Blenheim Fighters leave Dyce 0845 to Flamborough and return. (C. in C. Rosyth 0812/22). Patrols HORRLY, STAND, S.9. ordered today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0818/22.) Cancel SHARP. Weather unsuitable. (F. O. I. C. Portland 1010/22.)

TIRPITZ. Operations for 22 Sqdn. tonight as in my AP/639/21/12.(H.Q.C.C. 1235/22 to 16 Group, North Coates.)

Enemy Air Activity.

SUPERMAN. (Tug) Attacked 3 miles North of Rathlin Island. (Port Patrick Radio 0834/22.) Still being attacked. (C. in C.W.A. 0? to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 12. 40.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

ARINBJORN HERSIX. Attacked by A/C between Oversaye and Mull of Kintyre. (Port Patrick 0903/22.) Proceed to assist (C. in C.W.A.1055/22 to ARABIS) Proceed to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1109/22 to ENGLISHMAN, SUPERMAN.) Sailed ENGLISHMAN and SUPERMAN (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1244/22.) Ship abandoned. Tug rescued crew in 55° 28' N. 6° 22' W. C. in C. W.A. 1222/22 to ARABIS.) Arrived SUPERMAN at Campbeltown with survivors of ARINBJORN HERSIX (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1607/22 to C. in C. W.A.) Do you require assistance of ENGLISHMAN (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1850/22 to ARABIS.)

Harwich. Bomb on GANGES Road at 1800/21. Minor damage, estimate £100. No casualties (Works, Shotley Gate 1035/22.)

Liverpool Air-Raid. H.M. Naval Victualling Depot Helias Buildings Liverpool entirely destroyed by fire and H.E. last night 21/22. Feared all stores and records destroyed. Also Sub-Depot at Prestons Furniture Factory. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1223/22 to Adty.)

Thames Estuary. A/C and Fireworks seen during Night 21/22. (SO.T.L.D.F. 1503/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

East Coast Convoys. Enemy A/C have reported all Convoys on East Coast. (C. in C. Rosyth 1634/22.)

Liverpool. FORESIGHT. damaged. Raid damage Night 21/22, H.M. Ships no damage except FORESIGHT near miss slight damage fore superstructure and hole above water line. Two merchant vessels sunk and six others damaged in North Docks. At least another 10 discharging berths out of commission all in Liverpool North Docks. Some damage to Bridge Sand, and GLADSTONE and CANADA systems again out of action owing to failure of hydraulic pressure. Until restored no destroyer or sloop escorts can be sailed. Considerable damage to sheds and warehouses both at Liverpool and Birkenhead, and Liverpool ship repair firms considerably affected but extent not yet known.(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1701/22 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 12. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

Firth of Forth. — Enemy R/C. Aircraft passed over Firth of Forth at 1405 today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1721/22.)

Portsmouth. — At 1950 a H.E. Bomb fell in South Camber sinking 3 boats. A few incendiaries in VERNON. No damage or casualties. 2 H.E. Bombs and many incendiaries in Town. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2244/22.)

Mining.

Off Aldeburgh. — Heavy Explosions heard to East of Aldeburgh. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1006/22.)

Nore. — At 1143/20 a mine exploded 50 yards from BERKELEY in 320° 3 cables from Outer Bar Buoy. (C. in C. Nore 1006/22 to Adty.)

INTREPID. — Adty. 1545/21. Will be ready for sea PM/24. (F.O. Humber 1224/22.)

Dover. — Sweeping carried out 0800/21 to 0800/22. C.L.S.190 and 105 from Sandhead Buoy to No. 4 Buoy Swept 90%. Three sweeps cut by explosive cutters and one explosive cutter swept up in the channel. One mine cut close westward of the channel. Channel from Sandhead Buoy to A Buoy now considered clear but it is not intended to reopen until it has been reswept and clearance operations have been extended towards the shore. (V.A. Dover 1301/22.)

Thames Estuary. GARTH engine damage. — At 1123/22 a Mine exploded 50 yards from GARTH in 51° 29' 10" N. 0° 45' 3" E. causing some engine-room damage. (GARTH 1313/22 to Adty.).

Walton-on-Naze — At 1410 a loud Explosion and large column of water 150° 3 miles from Walton. Nothir near. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1415/22.)

Liverpool. — Port open (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1500/22. Port closed owing to minelaying by A/ (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2320/22.)

ELAX. — (British Tanker, 7403 Tons) Mined c Buoy, Liverpool. Requires Tugs. (Bu Sea Radio 1526/22 to Adty.) Positi Buoy, River Mersey. Possibly safe Liverpool 1915/22 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 12. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

POOLOARTH. (Tug) Mined and sunk off Canada Dock South Pierhead. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1915/22.)

Harwich Area. Proposed sweeps. Weather permitting intend sailing 5 F M/S. (A) At 0830/29 to search 151 Q.Z.S. and part of 117 Q.Z.S. to 5 miles south of position X.
(B) At 1600/6 to search 117 Q.Z.S, commencing sweep at S falls at Daylight 7th.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1614/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

Harwich Area. One Mine detonated by L.L. Drifter at 1125/22 in 51° 48' 18" N. 1° 20' 51" E. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1657/22.)

Peterhead. Proposed Mine. Weather permitting. Intend sailing group 19 from Peterhead at 2359/22 to search War Channel from Buchanness 090° 6' to 58° 25' N 2° 40' W due 1200/23, then return search of War Channel ahead of W.N.57 to Buchanness 090° 6' due 2359/23, then return Peterhead. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen. 1750/22.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Kiel Canal blocked. (1) My 1628/20 to D.N.I. Observed at Gothenburg evening 21st three or four German steamers awaiting orders for southward voyage.

(2) German shipping agent informed dependable Swedish official that Kiel Canal expected blocked another eight days. He ascribed blocking to British bombs. A one. (N.A. Stockholm 1134/22.)

Weser. Following vessels observed building on 2/12 on Weser River.(N.A. Stockholm 1140/22 to D.N.I.)

Main German Units. Positions on 29/11 and 14/12, 18/12, and 21/12. (D.D.I.C. 1216/22.)

Enemy Destroyers, Minelayers, and U-Boats. Positions on 21/12 by Air R/C.(D.D.I.C. 1251/22.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 12. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

ERNEBANK. (British, 5368 Tons) Tug ST. MARYS reports at 2040/21 ERNEBANK broken down in 55° 45' N. 22° 44' W. Requests Tug ST. MARYS leaving at midnight being short of fuel. (C. in C. W.A. 0606/22 to Adty.) Sailed RUPERRAH to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0555/22.) Request you detach WELLINGTON to stand by. (C. in C. W.A.0744/22 to BONAVENTURE). Intend sail Tug TENACITY PM/23. F. O.I.C. Belfast requested to sail SOUTHERN PRIDE to R/V with TENACITY. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1939/22 to C. in C.W.A.) Proceed to R/V with SOUTHERN PRIDE in 000° Tony Island Light 10 miles at 0900/24 and then in company to 55° 45' N. 22° 44' W. to assist ERNEBANK. WELLINGTON is standing by. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1410/23 to TENACITY.) If you still need help report position, course and speed. (C. in C.W.A. 2156/23 to ERNEBANK) ERNEBANK located in 55° 57'N. 7° 23' W. Does not require assistance. (C. in C. W.A. 2110/24 to WELLINGTON.)

St. MARYS. Submit needs docking for repairs. (ST. MARYS 1054/22 to S.O. 1st. M/L Sqdn.) Arriving Lough Foyle 2000/23. Requires docking for repair of propeller and Asdic Genr. Request where to send her (R.A.M.L. 1042/23 to Adty.) E.T.A. Port Z.A.0900/24. (ST. MARYS 1908/23 to RAMLA.) Arrived Z.A. 0915/24.(TRELAWNEY 0920/24.)

LLANDILO. (British, 4966 Tons.) Aground on Nore Sands. Bark broken amidships. Shall try to tow her further on sand next tide if floatable. (Capt.Brooks 1344/22 to Adty.)

CAMPANULA. (Corvette) Arrived with defects.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1757/22.)

H. 31. Following received from HINDOD begins. H 31 flooded from engineroom bulkhead aft. All crew safe. She is alongside quay with stern resting on bottom. Engine room hatch, both engine muffler valves, group exhaust valves and roturbo outlet open. Engine room bulkhead holding. Engine room hatch may clear at low water. Salvage pumps are standing by. 1945 Ends. Comdr. S with divers sent in H 8. Expected time of arrival Campbeltown 2130. Salvage craft sailing from Rothesay.

(S.T. 2041/22 to V.A.S.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 12. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

H.31. Cause is understood to be accidental loss of buoyancy while alongside with after hatch open. (V.A.S. 2349/22 to Adty.) H.31 now afloat. Intend sail her for Rothesay at 0900/25. F.O.I.C. has arranged towage. (V.A.S. 2227/24 to Adty.)

ANTHIPPI N. MICHALDS. (Greek, 3298 Tons) Sunk in collision with BEAVERDALE, which is landing 26 survivors. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 2100/22 to Adty.)

BEAVERDALE. (British, 9957 Tons.) Arrived 1800/22, damaged by collision with ANTHIPPI N. MICHALDS.(N.C.S.O. Belfast 2100/22.)

ABERDEEN. Side plating slightly damaged by collision with COLUMBINE at 1900/22 in 61° 8' N.14° 25' W. Proceeding to R/V with HX.95. (ABERDEEN 2230/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

COLUMBINE. Corvette holed forward and fore-peak flooded by collision with ABERDEEN at 1900/12 in 61° 8'N. 14° 25'W. Proceeding to Stornoway via North Minch escorted by WOLVERINE. (ABERDEEN 2230/22 to C. in C. W.A.)Proceed forthwith to assist (F.O.I.C.Greenock 0419/23 to SUPERMAN) sailed SUPERMAN (F.O.I.C Greenock 0730/23.) Reports position at 1200/24 to be 60° N. 11° 45' W. steering 120° and making 8 knots (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1820/24 to SUPERMAN.)

MOST SECRET.

22.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Estimated positions at 0900/22 (D.T.D. 1141/22 to C. in C. H.F.).

C.H.20. Intend to sail from St. Helens on 26/12. C. in C. Portsmouth requested to retain CATTISTOCK until sailing of convoy. (C. in C. Nore 0954/22).

F.N. 63. My 1639/21. Tyne and Middlesbrough ships did not sail (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0955/22).

W.N. 55 & W.N. 56 Arrived 0930/22 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1001/22).

F.N. 63. Humber ships arrived except ROSTERN (N.C.S.O Humber 1150/22).

F.N. 65. Left Southen 1015/22)
F.S. 65. Due Southend 1700/22) (C. in C. Nore
F.S. 66. Due Aldeburgh 0800/23 & 1200/22).

S.L. 58. Meet . Unescorted 31 ships 1000/24. Route (C. in C. W.A. 1224/22 and 2324/22 to BROKE, WELVIN, SHIKARI, KIPLING, SARDONYX, ANEMONE, LA MALOUINE, HELIOTROPE).

C.H. 20. Arrived 1130 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1323/22).

H.X. and S.C. Routes. Desirable to give more spread to H.X. and S.C. convoy routes over the present narrow lane on the Newfoundland Bank, by giving a more southerly route in your area to H.X. convoys which have the shorter ocean routes as issued by Admty. Positions should be included in Convoy sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1627/22 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

S.L. 60.). List of ships delayed by mishaps etc. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 2011/22).
S.L.S. 60). S.L. 60 Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1817/22).

/F.S. 65.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys (contd). Shipping. (continued).

F.S. 65.

Your 2317/21. My position is 052° 37'N. 002° 09'E., speed seven knots. Fast ships could reach the Nore Light Vessel by 1500 at eight knots but slow ships are unlikely to reach The Nore before dark.
(WOLSEY 0330/22 to C. in C. Nore).

My position course and speed are TLCE 0952 210 degrees 12 knots. 27 ships of F.S. Convoy 65 now ahead of me, no others in sight. Consider six rear ships have little chance of arrival before dark.
(VERDUN 1045/22 to C. in C. Nore).

Your 0330. Those ships which can reach the Nore Light Vessel by 1700 are to enter gate tonight. Remainder are to anchor between B one and B three buoys. One escort is to remain in company of those anchored. Report whether fuel is essential for one or both escorts.
(C. in C. Nore 1046/22 to WOLSEY, VERDUN)

O.B. 262. OREGON destination changed to Houston.
(D.O.D. 1038/22 to C. in C. W.A.).

F.S. 64.
F.N. 65. Order F.S. 64 to weigh and enter then join F.N. 65.
(C. in C. Nore 1153/22 to VIVIEN).

F.S. 64. Southend arrival 22/12/40 H.M.Y. RADIANT with Convoy F.S. 64.
(N.C.S.O. Thames. 1554/22).

S.L. 60. Departure 0600/22 BRIDGEWATER as local escort to Convoy S.L. 60.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1333N/22 to Admty).

E.N. 44. Your 1715/21 Rendezvous for two ships for Mumbles Head 057° 00'N. 007° 08'W at 1000 tomorrow Monday with E.N.44.
(C. in C. W.A. 1402/22 to N.C.S.O. Oban).

F.S. 66. VULCAN is to sail tomorrow Monday 23/12 to join F.S. 66 due the Sunk L.V. at about 1000/23. To Southend for onward routeing to Portsmouth.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1541/22);

Humber 22/12 departure H.M.T. BOTANIC at 1400 to join F.S. 66 for Southend for onward routing to Dover.
(F.O. Humber 1610/22).

/O.B. 268.....

MOST SECRET.

22.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys (contd)

Shipping. (continued).

O.B. 268. Request you will inform me whether CRISPIN will be ready to sail with O.B. 268.
(C. in C. W.A. 1626/22 to F.O.C.N.P.).

H.M.59. Code "MUSTER" 1900/24 H.M. Trawlers CAPE MARIATO and INDIAN STAR. 16 Ships (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1741/22)

H.G. 48. My 0945/22 to C. in C. W.A. only. Sailed ROSEMARY TO MEET H.G. 48 B.M. in splitting position.
(F.O. Milford H. 1742/22).

F.S. 67. My 1550/22. MOOLTAN 2 hours ahead and F.S. 67 1 hour ahead. INVERLANE proceeded northwards in tow at 1700/22.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1808/22).

F.S. 69. My 1217/20. Additional escort for F.S. 69 COTSWOLD.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1851/22).

H.N. 45. 1830/22 H.M.T's SPURS, FANDANGO Additional escort H.M.S. JASON. 16 ships. 3 ships for Clyde.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1951/22).

H.X. 95. VETERAN sailed for Londonderry 0900/22 to meet H.X. 95. (C. in C. W.A. 2002/22 to ABERDEEN, WOLVERINE, CAMELLIA, ARBUTUS, COLUMBINE.

H.X. 98. Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1123/22) Ships carrying war material. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1934/22)
Sailing telegram 1300A.S.T./22
Escorts LACONIA, VOLTAIRE (COAC. Halifax 1418/22).

H.X. 99. Advance sailing telegram. (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1721/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (continued).

Troop Convoys.
T.C. 8.

Your 1329/21. At 1800 G.M.T./21 T.C. 8 in position course and speed 055° 57'N 029° 11'W, 075° 12½. Estimated 2 hours late at rendezvous. Expect to arrive Halifax 1900 G.M.T./25 approaching course 256 degs. (REVENGE 0249/22 to Admty).

My 1303/21. The two portions of convoy T.C. 8 are to remain in company until further orders. Route follows. (C. in C. W.A. 1052/22 to OTTAWA, BATH).
Route for T.C. 8 from 57° 00'N 22° 00' West through:-
(A) 57 degs 18' North 20 degs 00' West.
(B) 57 degs 30' North 17 degs 30' West.
Further route follows.
(C. in C. W.A. 1111/22).

My 1111/22. Further orders will be given to proceed from position (b) either:-
(1) by south route through:-
(c) 56° 45'N 15° 00'W.
(d) 56° 45'N 11° 30'W.
thence to North channel,
or (2) by North route through:-
(c) 58° 30'N 13° 30'West
thence to North channel.
(C. in C. W.A. 1122/22 to OTTAWA, BATH).

Not met. My position, course and speed are 057° 00'N 021° 38'W 255° 15. Intend steering 075° at 1500.
(OTTAWA, 1415Z/22 to C. in C. W.A.).

(corrupt groups) 1328/22 convoy and (other) escorts not met. H.M.S. WATCHMAN in company. In view of weather conditions am returning to harbour.
(WORCESTER 1515/22 to C. in C. W.A).

Your 1515/22. It is important you should join the escort of this convoy should weather improve, although at present there is no such indication. Estimate position course and speed of convoy at 2030/22 is 057° 18'N 020° W routed through 057° 30'N 017° 30'W and 058° 30'N 013° 30'W thence to North Channel speed 12½ knots.
(C. in C. W.A. 2012/22 to WORCESTER).

/EUMAEUS.....

MOST SECRET.

22.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (continued).

EUMAEUS	S.S. EUMAEUS with 100 naval personnel will be ready to sail from Liverpool on 27/12. C. in C. W.A. requested to sail EUMAEUS to R/V with SALOPIAN when letter is ready on or about 27/12 and to arrange A/S escort. SALOPIAN is to escort EUMAEUS to Western Patrol, whence EUMAEUS is to proceed independently as ordered by N.C.S.O. Liverpool. (D.O.D.(H) 2115/22).
LOCHNAGER.	VALENTINE Plan. LOCHNAGAR will sail unescorted under N.C. Edinburgh arrangements first week in January with not more than one hundred personnel. (W.O. No T.O.C./22 to Movements Edinburgh).

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Foreign Legion Movement.

Your 1943/14 as CAPO OLMO with crew of TOUAREG on board has not yet arrived Duala to avoid the possibility of delay by diverting SCYTHIA at present homeward bound from Capetown. Request you arrange accordingly.
(D. of S.T. 1153/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

French Repatriots.

Your 1215/21. When negotiating with Portuguese in similar cases any undertaking by you that ships will not be sent in to Gibraltar can and must only on subject to such ships obtaining a Ship Navicert at Freetown. Fears expressed in penultimate sentence of your 1215/21 are groundless as a ship holding ship Navicert would not be sent in if intercepted.
(D.E.W.D. 1128/22 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

North Atlantic.

Warning Submarines of attack on O.G.47.

Report from LEITH states convoy O.G.47 was attacked in position 040° 47' N., 016° 47' W at 2117/21.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0020/22 to TRIDENT, CACHALOT.)

Free French.

Admiralty has reported 100 Free French are in Tangier. Request information whether they have had Exit visas and if they would be brought to Gibraltar about 31/12 if VALKYRIEN and (? expenses) were sent them.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1154/22 to Consul General Tangier).

Daily Summary Operations.

Two routine A/S patrols.
(200 Group 1545/22 to Air Min.)

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

R/V of destroyers with Force K. — Your 1157/22. Confirmed. (F.O.C.N.A. 2140/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

South Atlantic.

Coaling Freetown. — My 1633/10/8 and my 2035/12/11. In order to carry all cargo possible from loading ports, coal burning ships for United Kingdom should take all advantage of increased bunkers now available at Freetown namely 400 tons per ship and should only bunker sufficient to allow this amount to be taken at Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 0301/22 to Capt: I/C Simonstown).

SOTRA. SARA. SOIKA. SVANA. — SOTRA, SOIKA, SARNA and SVANA arrived here. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 0400Z/22).

Italian Aircraft. — Italian Aeroplane left here yesterday afternoon December 21st carrying 500 kilogrammes of cargo including cigarettes coffee and Soap. (Vice Consul Natal 0850/22 to Adty).

NORSEMAN. — Cable ship NORSEMAN now proceeding to 7° 23' S., 34° 35' W. (1030/22).

Suspicious Ship. — A fully loaded tanker with Spanish colours painted on bows and quarters and word Espana on bridge structure and on board abaft the funnel was sighted in 031° 06' N. 021° 38' W at 1015 G.M.T. 5/12 Enquiries indicate tanker whose behaviour was suspicious was not spanish. Description as follows, about 6,000 tons; black hull with short forecastle line flush to stern straight stem cruiser stern. White (? box) like bridge structure with taller cowls close abaft, white poop structure in middle of (? black) funnel average size with white band and red star device therein, derrick on fore side of foremast main mast half way between bridge and poop, structure no rake flying bridge, inconspicuous and tank (? tops/ invisible). (C.in C. S.A. 1133N/22 to S.A. Station Squadron.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Destroyers Force K.

My 1221 21/12 and my 1941/19/12 and your 1030 19/12. Request destroyers be sailed to rendezvous with Force K in position 015° 00' N., 027° 00' W. at 0900/N/30/12. Request confirmation that this can be done.
(C.in C. S.A. 1157N/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

DORSETSHIRE. HAWKINS. BERWICK. DEVONSHIRE. NEPTUNE.

Your 1251/21. Two cruisers should escort W.S.5.A. Freetown to Durban DORSETSHIRE and HAWKINS considered most suitable. Consequents on this decision reference my 0005/19 para.2 BERWICK to join Force K instead of DORSETSHIRE after arrival of W.S.5.A. Freetown. Desired to send DEVONSHIRE and NEPTUNE home to U.K. as soon as situation allows. They are placed temporarily at your disposal and possibly you may consider it necessary to stiffen the escort for FURIOUS during operation Monsoon.
(D.O.D.(F) 2159/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

Whalers.

Departure P.M. 21/12 WHALERS SWONA SKUDD three four and five in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1301/12.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1315N/22).

Raiders Search.

Hope to concentrate about 24/12 in South Rio area. Failing further information will remain there until about 26/12 then gradually move south to Plate. Have ordered Oiler ARNDALE and BALTAVIA to Plate and Oiler BROOMDALE to return to Falkland Is. to load A.M.Cs will remain in focal areas to counter merchant ship raiders.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1400Z/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

ARNDALE. ENTERPRISE.

For Consul - requirements:- for ARNDALE and ENTERPRISE.
(ENTERPRISE, 1430Z/22 to N.S.O.(I) Montevideo).

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

POLAR V.
SKUDD VI.

Sailed whale catchers POLAR V and SKUDD 6. (N.C.I.C. Ardrossan 1659/22).

DUQUESA.
overdue.

DUQUESA due Freetown 19/12 from Montevideo Departure 6/12 not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1836/22).
(Note: DUQUESA reported she was shelled by a raider on 18/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.12.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Folley.
Turkey.

Conversation 18/12 between Adm. Kelly and D.C.N.S. Turkey. (Ambassador, Turkey, to F.O., 0435/22) Chiefs of Staff No. 34. Views regarding assistance to Turkey. (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1117/22). See Mediterranean Vol.

HYPERION, mined, sunk.

HYPERION mined and sunk in position 37.04 N., 11.31 E. ILEX returning to Malta. Only 3 Mediterranean destroyers will therefore be available to S.O. Force H for "Excess". (C.in C. Med., 0853/22).

Italian Morale.

Italian banker just arrived from Rome informed observer that Italian food still not bad but public very disturbed by recent resignations and by stories from Albania. Libya is too far away to affect them much.
British bombing causing alarm. If it continues and Greeks have further successes Italy will probably collapse. (Madrid, 1059/22, to Admty.)
(M.I.D. Note. No actual shortage of essential foods in Italy but prices are high.
Distinct lowering of Italian morale during past month, but though signs are encouraging it is not considered that an early break up of Fascist regime can yet be looked for.
All reports agree that British bombing is causing alarm and that its continuance is likely to have wide-spread effect.)

Mines.

Mines are reported in Sicilian Channel within 3.5 miles from 37.05 N., 11.32 E. (D.S. 475).

Malta Air Report.

Combined services Report - Malta up to 1700/22. All times G.M.T. 0540 - 1412 Sunderland reconnaissance North West Ionian Sea for naval and commercial units. Nil report. 0900 - 1300 Glenn Martin reconnaissance Palermo. Unable to take photographs due to low clouds and rain. In port - 2 cruisers - same position as yesterday - 8 M/V's 8000 - 10,000 tons. 1014 - 1522 Sunderland search for missing Swordfish from ILLUSTRIOUS, nothing seen. Night 21-22/12, 2230-0730, Sunderland moonlight A.S.V. patrol between Sicily, Sardinia and Tunis ahead of West bound convoy. 0515 1 ship seen, bot identified due darkness, position 37. 48 mins. N. 8. 39 mins. E., course 180 degrees, speed 20. 0745-0805 2 enemy formations approached from North East, 1 to within 10 miles of Grand Harbour and then receded, the other skirted island to

/ East ..

MOST SECRET.

22.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Report. East and South before withdrawing. Our Hurricanes up; no interceptions. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med., 1719/22).

Air Report, Greece. Ops. Summary No. 40. Raid on Durrazzo planned for 70 Squadron night of 21-22/12 cancelled owing adverse weather. No.84 Squadron provided 9 Blenheims for raid on oil plant at Kucove a.m.22/12. Photographs show all bombs & aircraft well in target area. Formation attacked by 5 Macchi 200 persistently for 15 minutes. 2 our aircraft shot down in flames crews believed lost, 5 aircraft hit explosive bullets and 2 air gunners wounded not seriously. One E.A. believed shot down. A.A. fire reported target area intense and most accurate encountered Albania. (H.Q. R.A.F. G., 1720/22.).

East Indies.

Minesweepers. Your 1403Z/18. Intention that LL whale-catchers SOTRA, SOIKA SARNA, SVANA should proceed initially to Alexandria, subsequent movements of these ships being decided by C.in C. Med. (D.M S. 1324/22 to C.in C. E.I.).

China.

DAUNTLESS. Penang arrival 21/12. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 0149Z/22).

America and West Indies.

RESTIGOUCHE, ASSINIBOINE, SAINT FRANCIS. Halifax departures 0400/22 RESTIGOUCHE ASSINIBOINE, SAINT FRANCIS. (S.O.(I) Halifax, 0730/22).

Laying of A/S device in Gulf of Paria. Your 0947 December 21st. Approved. (C.in C. A. and W.I. 1062/22 to Capt I/C Trinidad).

B.H.X. 90. Conference. Your 1400/20. Conference not held for B.H.X.90 because convoy consisted mainly of ships of B.H.X. 89 which had been recalled to Bermuda shortly after sailing. Conference for B.H.X. 89 had been held. All masters again seen by N.C.S.O. except 4 ships which subsequently arrived just in time to join B.H.X.90 on sailing. Allegation that N.C.S.O. does not believe in conference is incorrect. (C.in C. A.E.I., 1112/22 to Admty.)

/ PRINCE ROBERT. ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

PRINCE ROBERT. My 1251/9. Proceed into Valparaiso a.m. 26/12 for 24 hours visit. On completion resume patrol off Talcahuano. Oiler SARADOLFO ordered rendezvous with you in 36° 40' S. 74° 00' W. at 1000Z/10/1/41. Callao pass PRINCE ROBERT.
(C.in C. A. and W.I. 1221/22 to PRINCE ROBERT).

H.X.90. Leakage. Bermuda. Your 1356/10. (Submarine attack on H.X.90) Investigations at Halifax Sydney and Bermuda have so far failed to find any cause of possible leakage and C.in C. A. and W.I. confident that no leakage at Bermuda.
Seven ships of which six neutral returned to Canada from H.X.90 for various reasons. Of these master of STAD Amsterdam had previously been suggested as anti-British but sealed envelopes in all these ships were correct on their returns. Master of Norwegian INGER who completed passage had previously been thought unreliable by N.O.I.C. Halifax. No previous suspicion of any other master or crew.
C.O.A.C. Halifax submits following suggestions: (a) in allocating standard route non-British ships should be farthest from convoy route.
(b) 2 terminals for standard route be provided 40 miles apart - B for British, N. for Non British.
(c) Ref. Admty. 1613/24/10. A further secret position should be established by N.O.I.C. Halifax (N.S.) and passed only to Admiralty in reroute ing convoy as a whole. This position to be passed in a signal of its own and not included in sailing telegram.
(d) Admiralty to make a practice of rerouteing all convoys about 8 days after sailing using specially secret position in (c) above. This would diminish possibility of leakage from this side or from ships originally sailing in convoy being of use to enemy.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1223/22 to Admty.)

Messages for Force K. and H.M. Ships. For security reasons until further notice Messages for S.O. Force K, Force K, C.S.15, FORMIDABLE, NORFOLK, BONAVENTURE, FURIOUS, ARGUS, DUNEDIN, NAIAD, and BERWICK are being routed on Broadcast H.D. and A. and W.I. and Gibraltar routines. During this period Delivery Groups from Reserve Block are being used for all Messages passed to these ships and Authorities. Ships are maintaining normal W/T Watch accordingly to the station on which they actually are.
(D.S.D. 1435/22 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

/ IRENE MARIA ....

MOST SECRET.

22.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

IRENE MARIA. Your 0230/20/11 Br. Ship IRENE MARIA has not yet arrived. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1456/22 to M. of Shipping).

Scarcity of Escorts. Personal from First Sea Lord.
(A) The safety of shipping in North West Approaches is primarily a question of number of escorts available.
(B) Our resources will increase considerably in about a couple of months but in meantime very short of escorting craft.
(C) Can you give us any further help during this lean period? If so shall be deeply grateful.
(D) If there are any ships you can send us please say when they would be ready to sail.
(1st S.L. 2156/22 to C.N.S. Ottawa).

Australia.

ADELAIDE, WAIRUNA. My 10182/20. ADELAIDE now escorting WAIRUNA to Lautoka and will then visit Suva. (A.C.N.B., 04562/22 to Admty.)

MANOORA. Arrived Thursday Island 11172/21 departed for Cairns 13062/21. (A.C.N.B. 11192/22.).

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

EUROPA.)
BREMEN.)

At Bremerhaven on 21/12. (D.S. 474).

TRAPANI.

Known to be at Genoa, much damaged on 19/12 (D.S. 474).

PROCIDA.)
LIGORNO.)

At Leghorn, may shortly proceed to sea. (D.S. 474).

NORDERNEY.

Para reports German NORDERNEY left quay and anchored.
(N.S.O.(I) Montevideo, 0203Z/22 to R.A.S.A.)

LA PLATA.

22/12. LA PLATA arrived here morning 22/12. (Bilbao, 1225/22 to D.N.I.)

My 0240/20. German ship LA PLATA arrived Bilbao 22/12.
(D.D.I.C. 2345/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Suspicious Vessel.

Your 1115/16 and S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1649/15. After further consultation with Commodore and Staff in SUTLEJ thought tanker was not EUROFELD or German naval tanker SAMLAND.
C.in C. S.A. 1133/22.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1814/22 to Adty).
Subject: Vessel may have been EUROFELD sailed September 3rd not since located.

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LELLO. Has arrived at Genoa from Spain with cargo of fruit. (D.S. 474).

SAN GIUSTO. Addressed in an en clair passage on 20/12 from Rome as an hospital ship, and Naval Authorities at Taranto and Bari informed that ship is appointed for service at Bari. (D.S. 474).

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

MANGEN. (torpedoed 21/12.)

(Swedish, 1246 tons). In convoy O.G.47. Sunk 2117/21 040° 47'N., 016° 47'W. Survivors picked up by GARM now ordered to proceed to Lisbon. No contact obtained am r#joining convoy. (LEITH 0042/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Torpedoed by U/Boat probably Italian homeward bound from Bordeaux in 40° 47'N., 16° 47'W at 2117/20. (D.D.I.C. 1147/22 to TRIDENT).

SARASTONE.

(British 2473 tons) Attacked by S/M in 41° 18'N., 15' 14° W. (Valentia Radio 1511/22).
S S S S 41° 18'N., 15° 14'W. attacked by S/M.
(Port Patrick Radio 1517/22).
Following received from Box 25 Burnit begins, SARASTONE 41° 18'N., 15° 14'W., attacked by S/M 1511 G.M.T.
(Hull Base 1731/22).

Submarine Reported.

1914/21.

By D/F 034° 15'N., 016° 20'W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0357/22).

2017/21.

Ref: Adty. message A.F. 40° 47'N., 16° 47'W. 2017/21 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0510/22).

0012.

Bearings received. Preamble and first 2 groups of message were:- 0118/22 JBDT LKEZ U/B probable in vicinity of 090 N., 21° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1000/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

1309.

By D/F probably U/B in area 53° 30' to 55° N., 20° to 25° W may have reported you.
(D.D.I.C. 1386/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1511. Enemy submarine in 041° 18'N., 015° 14'W. (V.A.S. 1651/22). D/F bearings indicate probable U/Boat within 30 miles of (a) 007° N., 028° W or (b) 008° N., 019° W. (C.in C. S.A. 1055/22).

1104. Indications of U/Boat in area bounded by 006° N., 009° N., 029° W., 018° W. (C.in C. S.A. 1104/22).

BEDOUIN. If not in contact and assuming that information has been received return to Scapa with your destroyer. (C.in C. H.F. 1961/22 to BEDOUIN).

1118. 52.30 - 53° N., 18° W - 20° W. indifinite position of Italian U/Boat. (D.S.475).

1758. 52.30 N., - 53.30 N., West of 22° W. indefinite position of German U/Boat. (D.S. 475).

Estimated U/B Dispositions.

Italian.

1 patrolling westward of Madeira leaving soon.
1 or 2 patrolling Azores area.
1 off Cape Juby.
1 bound for Gironde about 42 degs. N 15 degs. W.
5 between 52 degs. 30' N., and 57 degs. N. 18 degs W. and 20 degs W. one of which was about 52 degs 30' N., 19 degs W at 1118/22 probably homeward bound, others perhaps following.

German.

1 to westward of Sierra Leone possibly about 9 degs N., 21 degs W.
1 homeward bound maybe to northward of Madeira.
1 within 150 miles of Rockall to S.W. or W.
4 between 57 degs. N and 60 degs. N. 19 degs 30'W and 21 degs 30'W. One has been relieved and will return to Bergen. Two other reliefs may be coming from there. (D.D.I.C. 1338/22 V.A.S. 1528/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines attacked.

Obtained Echo position 63° 38'N., 16° 00'W. Attacked twice with no results. Lost Echo.
(NORTHERN GIFT. 1330/22).

THUNDERBOLT.
R. of P.

THUNDERBOLT reports 6 torpedoes fired at Italian U/boat at 0920/15. Enemy and escort sigzagging independently when first sighted at 0830. A11 column of water observed followed by an explosion 4 minutes 9 seconds after firing torpedo. Two minutes later enemy bow or stern sticking out of water. Further look revealed no trace of U/Boat and depth charging started five minutes after explosion of torpedo. During Hunt on 17/12 enemy passed over THUNDERBOLT and superficial damage was caused probably by explosive sweep. Since no further explosions were heard, although A/S sweeping continued for about 1-1/2 hours C.O. is doubtful whether enemy had firm contact at any time.
(V.A.S. 1449/22 to Adty.)

90

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Western Approaches Destroyers.

VENOMOUS forthwith, WITCH and WATCHMAN on 24/12, VIMY, DOUGLAS, KEPPEL, VANOC, VOLUNTEER on date to be arranged, will join my Command VANSITTART will leave my Command for Portsmouth on 26/12 and WIVERN and WILD SWAN for Portsmouth on relief by VANOC, VOLUNTEER.
(C. in C. W.A. 1504/23).

5 N-class Destroyers to join C. in C. W.A.

My 1306/19 paragraph 3. Consequent on the decision to route trade convoys further North in the North Western Approaches, it is necessary to provide more escorts.
2. The first five N Class destroyers will therefore remain in Home Waters for the present and are to join the Command of C. in C. Western Approaches when worked up.
3. The question of sending them to the Mediterranean will be reconsidered when four or five are available.
(1st S.L. 1528/23).

Iceland Prohibited Area on East Coast.

Icelandic Government have requested my assistance in regard to prohibited area on east coast. They point out that present limits preclude fishing from east coast ports. Situation would be greatly alleviated if (A) fishing were permitted within eight miles of coast and (B) if northern end of western limit were shifted as far as possible to north eastward to allow more sea room around Papey Island.
(F.O.Iceland 1724/23 to Adty)

Greenock.

Relations with Greenock Harbour Trust and Port Emergency Committee. Proposed alteration in their personnel
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1906/23 to Adty)

KENYA.

To be at 4 hours Notice for Steam
(A.C.N.S.H. 1907/23 to C. in C. W.A.).

Oban.

In view of Air Attack today, request an A/A Ship be stationed there until shore A/A defences are provided.
(C. in C. W.A. 2324/23 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940;
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K

DELUGE.

At. 1130/23 (D.C. 1130/23 and 1623/23).

At. 2330/23 (D.C. 2356/23).

Invasion Flares.

My 1903/19 Demonstration takes place today (V.A. Dover 1201/23 to G.O.C's).

Movements.

Nore Command Ships out of Action.

My 0746/17. Delete HOLDERNESS ERNBUS. Amend WHITSHED completion date 25/12. INTREPID 24/12. Add GARTH at Sheerness 25/12 (C. in C. Nore 0746/23).

ROCKINGHAM

Arrived Plymouth 1600/22 (C. in C. W.A. 0808/23).

VULCAN

Sailed 0838/23 to join Convoy for Southend (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0846/23).

HOLDERNESS.

Sailed Sheerness 0940/23 (C. in C. Nore 1050/23).
Arrived 1403 (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1411/23).

MOOLTAN, MALINES.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1114/23)

DOUGLAS, KEPPEL, LETITIA, CHITRAL, CALIFORNIA.

RANP 2240/20. Proceed passing Switha 0001/24 to R/V with LETITIA, CHITRAL, CALIFORNIA in North Minches and escort to 61°N. 15° 50'W. returning Scapa when detached. (RAD 1155/23 to DOUGLAS KEPPEL) Sailed LETITIA, CHITRAL CALIFORNIA as by FOONP 2240/20 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1340/23) Expect A/S Air Escort tomorrow.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1512/23 to LETITIA).

MALLOW, HARVESTER, HIGHLANDER, WITHERINGTON.

Arrived 23/12
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1305/23).

KASHMIR, PUNJABI, JERSEY.

Leave Plymouth 1630/23 to sweep from 49° 15'N 3°W to Ushant, returning Plymouth 1030/24. (C. in C. W.A. 1319/23 to Adty).

SANDWICH.

Arrived Sheerness for London 1305
(C. in C. Nore 1440/23).

/AUSTRALIA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued).

AUSTRALIA.	When ready for sea should proceed to Scapa or as ordered by C. in C. H.F. (A.C.N.S. H. 1526/23).
Northern Patrol.	Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (ACOS 1531/23).
SKSENA.	Arrived 1540 (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1542/23).
MONTGOMERY.	Arrived (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1623/23).
BITCH.	Your 1100/23. After fuelling at Lough Foyle proceed to Liverpool. (C. in C. W.A. 1624/23). Arrived (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2011/23).
QUORN, HOLDERNESS.	Sailed 1707 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1715/23).
VANITY.	Expect arrive 62.D. at 0630/24 (VANITY 1725/23 to F.O.I.C. Humber).
KELVIN, KENT, KIPLING.	My 1500/23. (KENT not met) My position at 2000 G.M.T. 51° 15'N. 16° 11'W. as by Adty 1712/7 (KENT 1805/23 to C. in C. W.A.). Steer towards 54°N. 15°W. (C. in C.W.A. 2102/23 to KENT). Destroyers to meet KENT in 54°N. 15°W. at 0930/24. Route to arrive Rame Head 1030/27. (C. in C.W.A. 2124/23).
WESTCOTT, VANSITTART, DEPTFORD, CALDWELL, BLUEBELL, HONEYSUCKLE.	Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1130/23

Operations.

Troop Embarkation.	GLENGYLE should be ready sail for Tail of Bank 0700/24. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1207/23) Cancel my 1315/23. GLENROY should leave Tail of Bank for Dock not later than 1500/24. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1641/23 to D.C.D.).
HOOD to patrol.	I consider that the enemy may try to take the opportunity of Christmas period to effect passage of outward or inward bound raiders. Intend therefore to sail B.C.S.1 in HOOD tomorrow with one Cruiser and 4 (four) destroyers to patrol to eastward of Iceland-Faroes passage. (C. in C. H.F. 1214/23 to Adty).

/B.C.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

HOOD to patrol. (contd)

B.C. One in HOOD with EDINBURGH and four destroyers is to sail from Scapa at 1600 tomorrow to patrol to the Eastward of the Iceland-Faeroes passage. In the absense of other instructions the force is to return to Scapa p.m./29.
(C. in C. H.F. 2249/23 to B.C.1).

Operation SPECIMEN.

Intend embark only 2 A/C for repetition Operation as transfer of third A/C from Hanger to Catapult is not possible (PEGASUS 1800/23 to C. in C. W.A.).

P.V.1.

Cancel my 1240 (Flare-dropping exercise) P.V.1. to be carried out instead at 2015 tonight.
(C. in C. Nore 1917/23 to Adty).

E-Boat engaged.

One E-Boar bearing 200° distance ½ mile in 52° 32'N. 2° 8'E. Consider E-Boar sunk or badly damaged. Can find no trace. (VERDUN 2210/23).
E-Boat disappeared behind smoke screen. (WESTMINSTER 2215/23) E-Boat probably damaged. Last seen steering south. (WESTMINSTER 2217/23).
My 2217. Slight superficial damage and 5 wounded, 3 seriously. Request instructions. (WESTMINSTER 2330/23 to C. in C. Nore).

STAD MAASTRICHT (Dutch, 6552 Tons).

Torpedoed in about 052° 35'N 002°03'E. Ship is afloat and appears likely to remain so. SHEARWATER has survivors and is standing by until daylight. Request tugs be sent then.
(WOLSEY 2255/23/to C. in C. Nore).

Tug KROOMAN sailed 0020/24 from Yarmouth to assist. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0030/24)
Tug NORMAN sailed 0055/24 from Yarmouth to assist. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0059/24).
Tug KENIA sailed Harwich 1205/24 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1222/24). If towing well, continue to tow towards Southend as long as visibility permits.
(C. in C. Nore 1745/24 to SHEARWATER).

Vessel sunk under tow in Gun Fleet Beacon 340° 3.6 miles. Bulkhead evidently collapsed. She sank in 30 seconds before she could be towed clear of channel. Propose to return to Harwich with tugs and survivors.
(SHEARWATER 1012/25 to C. in C. Nore).

Your 1012/25. Buoy position of wreck as accurately as possible and return to Harwich with Tugs (C. in C. Nore 1125/25 to SHEARWATER).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

H.34.	Cancel my 1134/22. H.34 now required Sheerness 6/1 (S.7. 1459/23).
MINERVE.	My 1554/22. Sailing postponed 24 hours (C. in C. W.A. 1508/23).
Greenock Area.	Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1509/23).
L.23.	Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1629/23).
Proposed S/M anti-U-Boat Patrol in N.W. Approaches.	A. Our submarines have recently had little success in the Approaches to Lorient and it is proposed that for the time being this patrol should be discontinued. B. If 'A' is approved suggest the submarine thus released should carry out anti-U-Boat patrol in N.W. Approaches clear to the N.W. of the area in which our convoy local escorts work. C. If 'B' is approved propose that the submarine proceed to and from patrol via Lands End. This will keep her as clear as possible of own shipping and will give her a chance to attack U-Boats on passage between Lorient Bordeaux and N.W. Approaches. D. Propose SEVERN carries out a short patrol of this nature while on passage to Halifax. (V.A.S. 1756/23 to Adty).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.	Patrol FAIR will take off at 0230 (C. in C. Rosyth 0156/23). 2 Blenheim Fighters leave Dyce 0845 to Flamborough and return (C. in C. Rosyth 0740/23). Patrols ordered today STAND and STAB (C. in C. Rosyth 0742/23). My 0742. Add Patrol THOST (C. in C. Rosyth 1112/23).

/Lorient.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (continued).

Lorient)
Brest.)

59 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's Docks at Lorient. 53 Sqdn. to attack tonight Power Station and Dockyard at Brest (H.Q.C.C. 1220/23 to 16 Group).

Bordeaux.

217 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's in No. 1 Basin at Bordeaux. (H.Q.C.C. 1222/23 to 15 Group).

Night Fighter Patrols replacing Hampden Patrols.

A.322 23/12. My 2337 of 1/12. Hampden patrols now cancelled and fighter nights substituted. On clear nights up to 20 sigle engine fighter Group arrangements while guns are silenced and searchlights doused. Patrol areas include same ports excepting Plymouth which is deleted. Request similar co-operation with local A.A.Commanders. (H.Q.F.C. 1340/23 to Adty).

Night Attacks.

Shipping and Barges were attacked at Flushing, Dunkirk, and Calais during the Night 22/23; and a Convoy of 5 Ships 15 miles from Bremerhaven was bombed by our A/C (H.Q.B.C. 2032/23 to Air Ministy.

Enemy Air Activity.

6 A/C leave Bordeaux.

Six Fokke Wulf A/C left Bordeaux at 1100 B.S.T., probably to attack W.S.5A. (D.D.I.C. 1235/23 to C.S.15. FURIOUS, ARGUS) (C. in C. W.A. 1218/23 to Ships).

A/C over Rosslare.

My 1048/ 9. Captain of G.W.R. Steamer reports considerable German activity over Rosslare and vicinity, aircraft coming so close that markings can be seen with naked eye. Irish papers have suppressed news of sinking of ISOLDA and are consistently taking a Pro-German attitude.
(P.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1240/23 to Adty)

Portsmouth Damage in Air-Raid.

At 1848/23 H.E. bombs fell in torpedo depot and on coal heaps N.E. corner No. 3 basin. North wall of torpedo depot badly damaged. Extreme damage to roof and window glass in eastern part of the yard.

Forty casualties mostly slight. No report of any killed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 2120/23 to Adty).

Oban.

Enemy A/C over Convoy Anchorage at 180
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1815/23).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation ZME.9.	Intend leave Milford Haven 1800 tonight lay at 2200, and return on completion about 0030/24 (ADVENTURE 0932/23). Operation completed (ADVENTURE 2241/23).
Liverpool.	Re-opened. (F.O.I.C. 1000/23). Port closed (F.O.I.C. 2241/23).
Thames Estuary.	Have been trying to sink Floating Mine in 045° B.6 Red Spherical Buoy one mile. Trawler No. 16 now trying to sink mine. (SANDWICH 1030/23 to C. in C. Nore).
Operation D.Z.	Adty 1545/21. Intend sail INTREPID, ICARUS from Immingham 1030/24. (D.20. 1410/23 to C. in C. Nore). Your 1755/19. Concur. Short Title D.Z. has been allocated. (C. in C.H.F. 1529/23 to Adty). Adty. 1137/18 and 1545/21. Request you sail INTREPID, ICARUS to arrive Scapa about 1030/25. (C. in C. Nore 1720/23 to F.O.I.C. Humber).
Falmouth.	Mine exploded P.M. today about 1½ miles ESE of St Anthony. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1738/23).
Oban.	Enemy A/C over Convoy Anchorage at 1800/23. Flares dropped. Suspect Mines. Port has been closed. Request Sweepers (N.O.I.C. Oban 1815/23). Sweepers detailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1935/23 to N.O.I.C. Oban) Port now open (N.O.I.C. Oban 2250/23 to Adty).
Operation. G.G.2.	My 1348/4. To be carried out on Night 28/12 or as soon after as convenient (C. in C. W.A. 1836/23 to ADVENTURE).
Liverpool. Proposed precautions.	Experience last two nights shows that enemy aircraft minelaying approaches definitely make use of Channel lights especially between Bar and Queen's Channel. Consider essential these lights be extinguished forthwith and that consequent delays in movements must be accepted. Reported that use of Bell and Light Float is also being made and this should also be extinguished. If approved request instructions be promulgated.

/ (1) .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Liverpool Proposed precautions. (contd).

(1) No vessels to approach within 20 fathom line during dark hours.
(2) Essential that vessels keep strictly to the Swept Channels.
(3) Convoys to anchor Moelfre Bay for the night when necessary.
(4) No vessels to anchor anywhere within 20 fathom line when making Liverpool unti reaching examination anchorage Crosby Channel.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1947/23 to Adty).

WARWICK.

Damaged by Mine in about 100° 1 mile from Bar Light Vessel. Engine and Boiler Rooms flooded. No casualties. Towed into river and Lope beach at Tranmere Bay tonight (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2111/23).
Now beached at Tranmere Bay (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2357/23 to Adty).

Nore Command. Precaution against Minelaying A/C.

Your 0054/21, paragraph (H).
2. As far as possible compatible with tactical requirements positions of all craft which may act as sea marks to enemy mine laying aircraft should be constantly changed.
(D. of L.D. 2113/23 to C. in C. Nore).

Liverpool. ELAX ATLANTIC COAST

My 1915/22/12 and 2111/23/12 hoped tanker ELAX will be berthed Birkenhead docks A.M./ 24. WARWICK now beached Tranmere Bay. M.V. ATLANTIC COAST slightly damaged by near mine A.M. today 14 mines now accounted for 3 apparently fired by the Isle of Man steamer VICTORIA steaming 20 knots, no damage to vessel. 3 exploded by sweepers one possibly by Examination vessel and remainder self detonated all except four in area between Bar Lt. Vessel and Queens Channel entrance.

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Stadlandet.

A/C saw one 8000-Ton M/V in 62°4'N 5°3'E. at 1155, steering 225°.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1238/23 to S.N. 0.23).

German Rescue Float.

Float No. 24 drifted inshore at Sandgate Has been salvaged and towed to Dover.
(V.A. Dover 1635/23 to Adty).

E. Boats.

There are indications of E-Boats activities tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1915

Stavanger.

R/C on 20/12 (PIU 2352/23).

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BEVERLEY. (ex U.S.A. Destroyer.) R.T.A. Inistrahull 1900/23. Have following urgent engine-room defects.(BEVERLEY 1100/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

IWATE. In 52° 35' N. 12° W. Forehold full of water at 1237/23. Making for Berehaven. (Valentin Radio 1336/23.)

ALYNBANK. (British, 5151 Tons) In collision in 57° 31' N. 1°35' W. Holed port side. Proceeding Rosyth 5 knots. Request Tug to stand by. (ALYNBANK 2245/23 to C. in C. Rosyth.) Making 8 knots. Negative Tugs. (ALYNBANK 2346/23 to C. in C. Rosyth.) Your 0020/24 to C. in C. Rosyth. Tug ST. OLAVES from Peterhead proceeding to your assistance. If in danger of sinking proceed to Aberdeen. If still proceeding to Rosyth comply with my 0026/24. (C. in C. Rosyth 0100/24 to ALYNBANK.) Making water in engine-room. Tug required to stand by.(ALYNBANK 0020/24 to C. in C. Rosyth.) R.T.A. May Island 0900 (ALYNBANK 0130/24) Water under control. No danger of sinking. (ALYNBANK 0230/24.

MOST SECRET.

23.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys. Estimated position of convoys 0900/23. (D.T.D. 1207/23).

W.N.58. 1715/22. H.M.Trawler FOXTROT. 6 ships (N.C.S.O. Greenock 0945/23).

F.S.67. 17 ships, 4 additional from middlesborough (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0951/23).
All Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. 1116/23).

F.N.63. All Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1034/23).

F.S.66. Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1033/23)

O.B.M. 263. Arrived (list). (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1045/23).

O.B.265. 1330/26. Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1045/23)

C.E.20. My 0954/22. Time table and route. (C.in C. Nore 1046/23).

F.S.65. Humber and Wash ships arrived. (N.C.S.O./Humber 1052/23). Arrived except JERNLAW, NORWICH and TRADER, latter reported sailing in F.S.67 from Middlesborough. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1101/23).

F.N.64. Arrived 1115/23. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1139/23). Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1614/23).

S.L.58. My 2324. Most. Add (3 ships) (C.in C. W.A. 1310/23 to BROKE, SHIKARI, SARDONYX, LA MALOUINE) Route of S.L.58 Slow. (D.T.D. to C.in C. W.A. 1547/23).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

(Convoys contd.)

Shipping. (Contd.)

H.X.95.

Estimated position at 0630/24. (C.in C. W.A. to ABERDEEN, 1320/23).

O.B. 262.

To steer for 51° N., 23° W., and not to disperse until this position is reached. (C.in C. W.A. 1354/23 to BROKE) My 1354. KENT to keep clear. (C.in C. W.A., to KENT, 1410/23 and 1732/23).
Your 1354. Escort left at 1400.
Unable to pass your message to Commodore before convoy dispersed at dock today. (BROKE, 1640/23).

O.B.H. 264.

1318/23 YORK CITY, 6. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1406/23, 1510/23).

S.C.17.

Sailing telegram Escort MALOJA (S.C.N.O., Halifax 1408/23, C.O.A.C. Halifax 1403/23).

S.L. 61.

Advance sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1444/23).

F.S. 68.

Sailed 1500/23. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1509/23). List (1611/23).

O.B.O. 263.

0230/24. 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1530/23).

S.L.S.60.

Date and route. (D.T.D., 1606/23 to C.in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.P.)

S.L. 60.

Date and route. Escort ESPERANCE BAY. (D.T.D., 1622/23)

O.B.264.

My 1251/19. Cancel last sentence. Convoy will not disperse until 22° is reached. (D.T.D. 1653/23).

S.C.16.

Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D., 1719/23).

O.B.O. 263.

Will not sail due to suspected enemy mining. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1840/23 C.in C. W.A., 2046/23, to ROCHESTER).

O.B.H. 263. }
O.B.C. 263. }

Sailed 2133/23. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2235/23).

F.S.69.

My 1851/22. COTSWOLD will act as additonal escort to F.S.69 thence proceeding to Harwich. (C.in C. Rosyth 0917/23).

H.N. 57.

ALYNBANK left Scapa to cover convoy W.N.57. 1000/23.

H.G.48.

SCARBOROUGH rejoined H.G.48 at 0900/23. (SCARBOROUGH, 1058/23).

/ H.N. 46
W.N. 59 ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys (Contd.)

H.N. 46.
H.N. 59.

Sail at 1430/24 and act subsequently as additional A/A escort to H.N.46 sailing at 2230/24. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa A.C.O.S. is requested to sail FLEETWOOD to join H.N.59 due Duncanby 1130/27.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1215/23 to FLEETWOOD).

F.N.66. }
F.S.66 }

Cancel my 1152/22/12.
Additional escort for F.N. 66 and F.S.66 SHEARWATER. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1340/23 amended 1435/23).

C.in C. Nore 1200/23. Amend convoy F.N. 66 due Sheringham light float 0030/24. F.S.66 due Flamborough Head 0330/24. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1806/23 to QUORN).

S.L.56.

KENT not met. SL. 56 met 1045. Proceeding with KIPLING along route.
(KELVIN, 1500/23 to C.in C. W.A.).

F.S.67.

Intend sail ELSIE CAM and LIBYAN at 1700/23 to rendezvous with F.S. 67 T. No.5 buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1515/23).

Great Yarmouth 23/12 departure to join F.S.67 for Sheerness ELSIE CAM and LYBAN at 1710. 1725/23.

S.L.S.56.

HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, BEVERLEY to meet convoy S.L.S.56 in position 053° 30' N. 016° 30' W. 1000/26.
(C.in C. W.A. 1540/23 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

5 M.V's.

My 2130/22. Sailed 5 M/Vs.
Escort KINGSTON ANDALUSITE and PEARL.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1737/23).

F.N. 67.
F.S.69.

Take PRIMULA under your orders and sail to join F.N. 67, SHELDRAKE to return at dawn North of Sheringham. PRIMULA join F.S.69. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2246/23 to SHELDRAKE and PRIMULA).

S.L. 56.

Admty. 1659/21. Request you sail VICTRIX to arrive Milford Haven 27/12. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail VICTRIX as escort for s.s. AGATHA and s.s. ANTONIA ex S.L.56, to arrive Brixham at 0900.
(C.in C. W.A. 1556/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Your 2012/22. Am endeavouring to join convoy p.m.23/12, but have been unable to fix my position. WATCHMAN in company.
(WORCESTER 1040/23 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ Not met .....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.).

Convoys. (Contd.)

Not met 60° 33' 15° 00'.
(ABERDEEN 1131/23 to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 1107/23. Have not sighted convoy since 2130/21 nor have trawlers been seen. Convoy will be late. Further signal will be made when touch is regained. My noon position 058° 06' N. 012° 47' W.
(LEITH, 1316/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Convoy not met. Am returning to harbour expected time of arrival Greenock 1500/24 WORCESTER and WATCHMAN. Both ships have defective domes probably require docking.
(WORCESTER, 1832/23 to C.in C. W.A.).

My 0800 position 057° 34' north 016° 38' west checked by aircraft. Since daylight have searched 20 miles front to 058° 11' north 013° 46' west aircraft assisting and thence to position 057° 45' north 012° 36' west at 1645. My course and speed 124° 14 knots. Intend continuing until daylight. (OTTAWA, 1846/23 to C.in C. W.A.).

Harwich December 23rd departure M/S Trawler TRANIO at 1714 to join southbound convoy a.m. 24/12 for London.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1915/23 to Admty.)

O.O.48. Turkish ferry boats EXIBIT, GEMLIK, ERDEK and KIYLE to be sailed with O.S.48.
(D.T.D. 1914/23 to N.C.S.O. Clyde).

Escort Groups. Order of sailing of escort groups for O.B. and O.G. Convoys to 13/1. (C.in C. W.A. 1542/23).

Ocean Escorts for Gibraltar Convoys. In view of increased U-Boat activity near route of Gibraltar convoys, consider it desirable that ocean escort of these convoys should be increased to 3 sloops and essential that it should be increased to 2.
On basis of 2 sloops per convoy for the cycle given in A.M. 2017/21, 12 sloops are required.
Excluding BIDEFORD 9 sloops are now allocated to this command.
Propose that three should be transferred from East Coast as soon as they can be relieved by HUNT Class destroyers.
Request completion of BIDEFORD may be hastened. 1656/23.

/ Independent Sailings ..

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.).

Convoys. (Contd.)

Not met 60° 33' 15° 00'.
(ABERDEEN 1131/23 to C.in C. W.A.).

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/ Independent Sailings ..

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Independent Sailings.

Your 1859/21/12. Cape Verde Islands are not mentioned. Request confirmation that ships bound to and from U.K. and Freetown and other South Atlantic ports should now be routed wither side of Cape Verde Islands and all regulation of N. and S. bound traffic by a dividing line as laid down in Admiralty 1788/26/11 defined in sub paras. (2) and (3) of (A) of Admty. 1612/19/11 is also cancelled. Presume ships should still pass out of sight of Cape Verde Islands. Are 13 knot ships still to be sailed independently as in Admiralty's 1157/15/11 which is now cancelled. (C.in C. S.A. 1757/23 to Admty.)

Troop Convoys.

N.S.SB.

20 liners with military personnel to be ready to sail (date). List of sailing ports and orders for destroyer escort, A/A escort (one DIDO class and one A/A cruiser), ocean escort by RAMILLIES. (D.O.D.(H) 2350/23 to C.in C's W.A., H.F., etc.)

T.C.S.

If not met, ordered to steer 075° for 290 miles from R.V. 57° N., 22° W. (C.in C. W.A. 0056/23 to OTTAWA).

HUMAEUS
ABOSSO

Cancel my 2115/22.
Now approved to embark 246 Naval personnel in HUMAEUS and 220 Naval, Military and R.A.F. personnel in ABOSSO. Ships will be ready to sail from Liverpool on 27/12, and 28/12 respectively.
Both vessels should be sailed to R.V. with SALOPIAN.
A/S escort should be provided.
SALOPIAN to escort both vessels to Western patrol whence they are to proceed on their voyages independently.
(D.O.D.(H) 2147/23 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

CAPITAINE-SAINT-MARTIN.

French CAPITAINE SAINT MARTIN expected to complete loading 23/12 expected to sail for Casabalnca night 24/12.
British Consul Las Palmas 1230/23 to Admty.

Las Palmas reports French steamship CAPITAINE-SAINT-MARTIN expected to complete loading tonight and to sail from that Port for Casablanca night of 24/25. Very desirable that this ship should be intercepted and sent to U.K. or Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1821/23).

Free French.

Your 1154/22. These Free French Men are not in Tangier but in French Zone.
I should not like them to come here as Spanish would quite possibly refuse "to play".
2. They should be got away from Protectorate and no via Tangier.
I am trying to get nominal roll for despatch to Foreign Office.
Consul General, Tangier, 1930/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

New Caledonia.

Sautot, Governor New Caledonia, states intercepted letter from Saigon written by Colonel Denis former Commandant Superieur, Noumea, and later Governor of New Caledonia elected by Vichy contains boast that he will return to New Caledonia about January with French Naval Force to re-establish Vichy regime in New Caledonia.
(D.N.I. Melbourne, 07032/23, to C.O.I.S. Singapore).

Brazzaville, Liaison.

British Liaison now organised as follows:-
Spears Mission, Brazzaville, is link between H.Q., Free French Forces and London and also between H.Q. Free French Forces and Milwestaf and C.in C. South Atlantic. (details).

This organisation must be considered as temporary and depending on ultimate decision regarding Spears Mission, Brazzaville.
(20 M.M., 1340/23, to W.O.)

Dakar Intelligence. RHONE and S/M SFAX reported torpedoed.

Following from Navy Department. From Dakar. Following French ships movements occurred 21/12: Arrival FELIX HENRI GROIX CAPLUIGI and AISNE from north, latter two 4000 and 6000 tons coal respectively for Merchant Marine.
EURA from South, SAN PEDRO and GRANDIDIER sailed for French Guiana and Casablanca respectively.

From .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Contd.)

Dakar Intelligence. RHONE and S/M SFAX reported torpedoed

From (corrupt Group): French tanker RHONE and French submarine SFAX are reported as torpedoed on Atlantic side of Straits during 20/12 with loss 150 officers and men. Admiral D'Harcourt commanding at Casablanca believed attacking submarine was either British or Italian though he did not know for certain nationality.
(U.S.A. Washington, 1736/23, to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

7th A/S trawlers.

In view of recent augmentations of 7th anti-submarine group propose trawlers be sent to U.K. in turn for docking unloading and leave as is being done with 13th Destroyer Flotilla. As majority of trawlers ships' companies live in Scotland or North of England request ships should refit at Northern port and that name of port be communicated before sailing. Request early decision as it is desired to sail KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE to U.K. in H.G. 49 about 29th December.
(F.O.C. N.A. 1052/23 to Admty.)

M.T. Convoy.

Admty. 1241/20 and S.O. Force H's 2358/19. To enable rendezvous and escort to be arranged request early decision.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1100/23 to C.in C. Med.).

Azores Patrol.

Situation Report 1200/23. Convoys. Force K, etc. (D.O.D. (F) 1817/23 to TRIDENT, CACHALOT).

USK. UPHOLDER. UNIQUE. HAARLEM.

Gibraltar arrival 23/12 1515 USK, UPHOLDER, UNIQUE escorted by HAARLEM.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1600/23).

Daily summary operations.

2 routine A.S. Patrols.
(200 Group, 1710/23 to Air Min.).

CILURNUM.

My 1912/20. CILURNUM was released by Contaband Control Service Officer for reasons stated in his message 1741 T.O.O. 1800/13 reply Adty. 1319/20.
Master was warned that if he sailed in future without ship's Navicert or ballast clearance when in ballast he would be sent in. Ships sent in by Western Patrol Trawler invariably require extra bunkers and provisions to get them to their destination in addition to which trawler can only supply an armed guard for 1 (one) vessel which she does not recover until her return.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1759/23 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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23.12.1940.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN. Capetown departure 1515/22. Netherlands M/L WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN for Durban. Speed of advance 12 knots. E.T.A. P.M./26. (N.O.I.C. Simongstown).

DELHI. Lagos arrival 22/12. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 10391/23.).

ASPHODEL. CALENDULA. Arrival 1015/23/12 ASPHODEL and CALENDULA. 1066K/23.

Leakage. Have just been advised by French Authorities that Buenos Aires broadcast on the evening of Friday/Saturday last that the French Foreign Legion would be leaving Duala Cameroons on the 25/12, would pick up convoy at Freetown and would then proceed to Port Sudan.
Free French Authorities consider leakage has occurred through military carelessness and consequently over frontier into Spanish Guinea. Need for greatest secrecy had been impressed on Governor and 2 officers concerned.
(N.C.S.O. Duala 1106/23 to C.in C. S.A.)

BALTAVIA Departure 23/12 on patrol.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Is., 1650/23).

Whale Catchers. Whale Catchers left Ardrossan routed through 056° 00' N. 010° 00' W. 056° 00' N. 017° 00' W. 052° 00' N. 022° 00' W. thence to Ponta Delgada, Las Palmas and Freetown.
(F.O.C.N.F. 1710/23).

Enemy Raider. When you have searched area in my 0039/21/12 proceed to operate on Western limits of Trade Route South East of St. Helena until necessary to return to St. Helena to fuel. (C.in C. S.A. 1957/23 to HERMES).

BRIDGEWATER. My 1167/13/12. BRIDGEWATER reported submarine resembled Redoubtable class French Submarine. Considered very probable, four of this class having seen reported recently at Dakar vide my 1617/ 3/12.
(C.in C. S.A. 1949/23 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

HYPERION
(mined 22/12)

My 0853/22. Preliminary report.
HYPERION obtained a firm contact in position (7218) MALAYA and fired one pattern, contact was regained astern and approximately 20 minutes later a second pattern was dropped. Speed was then reduced to 15 knots and then 12 knots and contact (?regained) firmly on port quarter. While altering to port and having turned 90 degrees explosion occurred approximately in tiller flat. Ship was flooded aft up to officers cabin flat. Both screws out of action, ships structure badly buckled. Ship sunk by torpedo from JANUS on my orders that ship was to be sunk if (corrupt group) not steam.
Casualties two ratings missing, blast killed one officer, and eight ratings cot cases and four ratings non-cot cases.
From available evidence it is considered that HYPERION hit a mine.
(C.in C. Med., 1035/23, to Admty.)

Convoy
M.E.5A.

Arrived a.m./23. (N.O.S.O. Alexandria, 1153/23 to Admty.)

Operations,
20/12 - 22/12.

My 1221/19. Fast and slow convoys arrived without incident at Malta and M.E.5 sailed for Alexandria at 1500/20.
MALAYA proceeded through Narrows on night 21/22, during passage HYPERION was mined or torpedoed and sunk as reported in my 0853/22.
On night 20/21 ten Swordfish of 830 Squadron attacked Tripoli (Africa), four Cucumbers laid south of main channel and two in channel. Remaining aircraft scored hits with 250 pound bombs on seaplane station, slipway and buildings on north mole (?dockyard) several fires started. All aircraft returned.
On night of 21/22 fifteen of ILLUSTRIOUS aircraft attacked Tripoli. Ten of the aircraft dropped bombs on Spanish Quay one Warehouse blew up and other set well alight. Army store depot also attacked and set on fire. Army H.Q. and anti-aircraft batteries hit latter silenced. 250 pound bombs and incendiaries used. Considerable long and close range anti-aircraft fire but all aircraft returned safely.
During 21/12 a reconnaissance from ILLUSTRIOUS sighted at 1300 a convoy of three merchant ships escorted by a destroyer about 20 miles East of Kerkennah Island.
Nine Swordfish with torpedoes and Duplex pistols brought off attack at 1606.
One 3000 ton merchant vessel seen to blow up and disappear one of 6000 tons

/ also ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Operations. 20/12 - 22/12. (Contd.)

also sunk. Destroyer and remaining merchant ship were very small and were not attacked. One aircraft failed to return from reconnaissance. Destroyer returning from sweep in Adriatic observed fires burning at Valona from which it appears bombardment was successful. (C.in C. Med., 1223/23).

Your 2124/23. Request -
(a) details of personnel for Malta embarked in ships other than "ESSEX".
(b) Confirmation that "ESSEX" has no personnel or cargo for Greece or Middle East.
(c) Confirmation that there is no cargo for Malta in ships other than "ESSEX".
(d) Confirmation that all four ships referred to in (c) have cargoes for both Greece and Middle East.
(e) Confirmation that cargo for Greece can be off loaded before cargo for Middle East. (C.in C. Med. 1343/23 to Admty.)

Shore-Based Air Reccon.

Following received from C.in C. Med. (Quotes his 1941/21/12).
Request information as to present state and probable date of reinforcements. (D.N.A.D., 1324/23 to Air Ministry).

Air Report.

Operational Summary No. 196 up to 1200 hours 23/12.
Para. 1 Egypt. (Details of aircraft casualties from commencement of military operations in Western Desert on 9/12 to date). Totals 63 confirmed 38 unconfirmed. Aircraft operating from Malta destroyed 19 additional unidentified aircraft on ground confirmed. R.A.F. including those destroyed in operational area not necessarily through enemy action one Wellington 4 Blenheims 3 Hurricanes 3 Gladiators one Lysander destroyed. Total 14. 21-22/12 3 Wellingtons bombed Tobruk wharves, jetties and buildings, all bombs except 4 falling target area. 5 Wellingtons bombed Berka and Benina aerodromes, starting explosions and fierce fires among the hangars at Berka. 22/12. No bombing operations. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1228/23).

Tobruk bombed.

/Malta Air Report, ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Report. Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours. 23/12. All times G.M.T. 1150 hours off Cape Spartivento 6 MVS 3,000 tons heading 270 degrees towards Messina Straits. 0811 to 1403 Glenn Martin 431 Flt. - photographic recce. Brindisi and Taranto. Brindisi - 3 cruisers in outer anchorage east of seaplane station. In harbour 5 destroyers alongside quay and 5 MVS of 1,000 moored at right angles to Mole. Taranto convoy of 8 MVS - 8,000 to 10,000 tons escorted by 2 battleships of which 1 Littorio and 1 Cavour and 5 destroyers bearing 220 degrees 3 miles from entrance to harbour course 040 degrees. In outer harbour quarter mile from main entrance. One battleship supported by barges making slowly for inner harbour. Evidently the damaged CAVOUR 8 MVS 6 to 8 thousand tons anchored off north west of entrance. Inner harbour twelve destroyers and five cruisers along destroyer pens from west to East. A.A. intense at 6000 feet but inaccurate. No enemy activity over Malta. (H.Q. Malta, 1700/23).

Air Operations. Tripoli, Convoy attacked. Intend issuing following press Communique. Naval Aircraft attacked harbour of Tripoli (Libya) in North Africa on the night of 20th and 21/12. The attacks were extremely successful the quay being repeatedly hit. Warehouses were set on fire and one was seen to explode. The seaplane station was also heavily hit.
On the afternoon 21/12 our Naval Aircraft attacked with torpedoes a convoy of 3 merchant ships escorted by a destroyer. One 3000 ton ship was seen blown up, another 6000 ton ship was also sunk. One aircraft failed to return from these operations. (C.in C. Med., 1209/23).

East Indies.

HINDUSTAN Departure 0500Z/23 for Perim patrol. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0615Z/23).

PRABHAVATI, SOPHIE MARIE. Bombay arrivals 0230 Z/23 PRABHAVATI 0345 SOPHIE MARIE. (S.O.(I) Bombay 0645/23).

LEANDER. E.N. 12. LEANDER will form Force R for E.N.12, and will continue to escort convoy west of 053° E. as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea. (C.in C. E.I. 0758Z/23).

RANCHI Mombasa arrived 0825/23 G.M.T. RANCHI. 0832Z/23.

Kishimayu. Air photographs of Kisimayu 21/12 reveal 14 large ships and 2 small ships. Total therefore ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Kilindini (contd.) therefore unchanged since 6/12. My 1064/7 refers. (C.in C. E.I.)

WESTRALIA. Colombo departure 1047Z/23. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 1100/23.)

W.S.4A. Convoy W.S.4A arrived Suez 0750Z/23. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1014/23).

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA Free French sloop arrived. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1126Z/23).

CRICKET
PROTECTOR My 1148/16 and 0604/17 CRICKET with tug PROTECTOR in company will sail from Colombo at 1130 Z/24 for Cochin where CRICKET will refuel from Commercial Stocks. CRICKET to signal and fuel requirements before departure Colombo. After refuelling ships will proceed in company to Bombay. PROTECTOR is to proceed independently from Bombay to Aden without undue delay. Arrangements for onward passage of CRICKET to Aden will be signalled later. (C.in C. E.I., 1234Z/23 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

FARNAMATTA Bombay departure 1230Z/23 for Aden. (S.O.(I) Bombay 1235/23).

SHILLONG My 1856/16. No distress signal from SHILLONG. No confirmation SHILLONG's report yet been received. Request Masters who were near may be questioned. (C.in C. E.I. 1416Z/23 to A.C.N.B.)

RANCHI
NIEVW HOLLAND
WESTERNLAND Mombasa left 1455/23 G.M.T. RANCHI NIEVW HOLLAND, WESTERNLAND. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini 1530Z/23).

TAIMBA Arrival and departure 22/12 Hospital ship. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1654Z/22).

China.

Aerodromes, Malaya. Admty. 1854Z/22, (re provision of 1942 F.A.A. war requirements in Singapore area) Suggestions re additional aerodromes (C.in C. China 0931Z/23 - see Operations Vol.)

TIRRANA
TALLEYRAND Your 1218/20 not to N.O. Kobe. Norwegian Consul Kobe states in letter to Dodwells, Shanghai, that Norwegian TIRRANNA was shelled and captured June 9th, prize crew and ship despatched home. Information presumably obtained from OLE JACOB or Norwegian TEDDY survivors. (S.O.I. Shanghai, 0737Z/23, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MONTCLARE.
ELK.
HUSKY.
BISON.

Arrival MONTCLARE escorting ELK, HUSKY, BISON.
(N.O.I.C. Bermuda 1153/23).

MALOJA.

MALOJA sailed from Halifax 23/12 Ocean escort S.C. 17 1505/23.

SALISBURY.
RICHMOND.
NEWPORT.

SALISBURY, RICHMOND, and NEWPORT sailed for U.K. 1405/23 G.M.T. 1512/23.

HILDA KNUDSEN.
PACIFIC PRESIDENT.

Following ships have now arrived. Your 1900/29/11 HILDA KNUDSEN Your 1230/2 PACIFIC PRESIDENT.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1534/23 to M. of Shipping)

Australia.

ACHILLES.
EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.
DOMINION MONARCH.

ACHILLES escorting EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and DOMINION MONARCH arrived Sydney 2037Z/22. 0719Z/23.

New Zealand.

AWATEA.

S.O.I. Wellington 2040/19 presume AWATEA was also included in convoy.
(D. of S.T. 2103/23 to N.Z. Naval Board).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HEINRICH ARP

German ship HEINRICH ARP arrived from Vigo 2300/22.
(Consul Bilbao 1705/23).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ARACATACA.
(torpedoed 29/11).

British POTARO arrived Buenos Aires today with 17 crew and one passenger survivor ARACATACA. All well, names in my immediately following telegram to Admiralty only.
(N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires. 2140/23 to Adty).

Submarines Reported.

0600. 006°N, 015°W (C. in C. S.A. 1508/23).

0633. Bearings obtained. Consider U-boat near 6°N, 15°W. (D.D.I.C. 1500/23 to C. in C. S.A.).

1208. By D/F, probably U boat 55°N, 17°- 19°W. Unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1248/23).

1530. 058° 03'N, 007° 12'W. (Graded C.3) (A.C.O.S. 1757/23).

2015. By D/F Italian U-boat between 39° - 42°N 9°30' - 11°W. (D.D.I.C. 2206/23). (F.O.C.N.A. 2323/23).

2318. By D/F Italian U-boat near Cape Finisterr probably homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 0013/24) (V.A.S. 0003/24).

Near Aruba. Your 1000/16. N.C.S.O. New York has interviewed Chief Officer. States clearly saw submarine with whole upper deck swash. No guns and no marks; about 250 feet in length painted dull greenish brown and much weather worn. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian

1 may be leaving Madeira area.
1 or 2 patrolling Azores area.
1 in area Canaries-Cape Juby.
1 bound for Gironde about 43 degrees 30'N. 12 degrees 30'W.
1 bound for Gironde about 50 degrees N.17 degrees W.
4 between 53 degrees N. and 57 degrees N 18 degrees W. and 20 degrees W. probably tending to move southwards.

/German.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.12.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Estimated U/B dispositions. (contd).

German.

1 to westward of Sierre Leone.
1 may be northbound somewhere about 36 degrees N. or 37 degrees N. 15 degrees W.
1 between 55 degrees N. and 55 dgrees 30'N. 17 degrees W & 19 degrees W.
1 may be West of 20 degrees W. north of 52 degrees N.

3 between 57 degrees N. and 60 degrees N. near or to West of 20 degrees W.
1 eastbound probably for Bergen may be between Shetlands and Faroes.
(D.D.I.O. 1249/23).

89 91

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Oban Proposed Prohibited Area for A/C.

Consider essential that Oban and Convoy Anchorage should be prohibited area to all air craft except operational training. Craft flying low at present moment are likely to be fired upon particularly by merchant ships.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1033/24 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

A.M.C.'s on Western Patrol.

Your 1751/21. There are at present 9 A.M.C.'s available for Northern and Western Patrols and allowing for refits boiler cleaning etc. there are never more than 8 serviceable at one time.
2. If 4 A.M.C.'s are detached and based on Halifax as proposed, 5 remain with which to keep a second ship in Denmark Strait vide C. in C. Home Fleet's 1579/HF 1232 of 27th September and 1754/19/11 and to provide A.M.C's for Western Patrol, which will reduce the number on Western Patrol at any given time to one. From now until the Spring the desirability of a third ship in Denmark Strait is to be considered.
3. I consider that if the proposals in your 1751/21 are adopted they should be carried further and that the four A.M.C.'s together with the A.M.C's of the present. Halifax Escort Force should be worked in rotation to keep two or possibly three ships when required in Denmark Strait leaving the remaining five for Western Patrol.
4. In addition to increased fuelling facilities in Iceland fresh water supply is necessary.
5. The reduction of the existing regular communication facilities with Iceland may cause inconvenience.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1502/24 to Adty).

HECLA.

Cancel my 1613/21. HECLA proceed to Greenock as in my 2208/8. Other arrangements are being made for Iceland. (V.C.N.S. 1848/24).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/24. (D.C. 1147/24.).
At 2330/24. (D.C. 2330/24.).

Oban. Request R/C to assess practicability and scale of proposed A/A Defences.
(D. of L.D. 1911/24 to Air Ministry.)

Dungeness
M.N.B.D.O.
Battery. My 1212/11 and Hofors R.A.3091/17. Battery will not be removed before 1/4/41. M.N.B.D.O. South Shields Battery will accompany R.M. Group to Middle East.(V.C.N.S.1538/24.

Movements.

DOUGLAS,
ZEPPEL. Sailed Scapa 0001/24. (A.C.O.S. 0031/24.)

ENOCH,
AURORA. My 2239/23 and C. in C. H.F. 0022/24. Ships are required to provide A/A protection for Trade at Oban.(A.C.N.S.H.0749/24 to C. in C. H.F.) Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1610/24.)

BEDOUIN,
MACHONA,
MATABELE,
LOTUS. Arrived Scapa 0428. (A.C.O.S. 0805/24.)

QUORN,
HOLDERNESS. Arrived 0901(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0906/24.)
Sailed 1705 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1714/24.)

BRIGHTON. My 1057/22. Regret again delayed. Hope sail AM/25. (C. in C. W.A. 1121/24.)

Intend to sail Group of 5 MV's and tug towing B.P. target escorted by KINGSTON, ANDALUSITE and PEARL from Needles 1715 today. E.T.A. Dartmouth 0815/25.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1237/24 to Adty.).

VIMY. Sailed 1255 (A.C.O.S. 1320/24.)

SANDWICH. Arrived Tilbury 1445.(F.O.I.C. London 1530/24.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines today. 4 Trawlers.(A.C.O.S. 1539/24.)

HOOD,
EDINBURGH,
COSSACK,
ECHO,
ESCAPADE,
ELECTRA. Sailed Scapa 1740.(A.C.O.S. 1747/24.)

MOST SECRET.

24. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

VANSITTART,
HONEYSUCKLE
BLUEBELL,
CALDWELL,
VISCOUNT.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1934/24.)

MONTGOMERY.

Arrived Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 2230/24.)

WORCESTER,
WATCHMAN,
LE TRIOMPHANT,
PIORUN,
CAPETOWN CASTLE.

Arrived Clyde (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1851/24.

Operations.

At 2210/23 VERDUN Escorting F.N.66, reported engaging an E Boat which was either sunk or badly damaged in 52° 32'N. 2° 8'E. At 2215 WESTMINSTER with F.N.67 reported that an E Boat sighted at 2205 in 52°39'N.2° 10' E. had disappeared steering south behind a smoke screen probably damaged. WESTMINSTER also reports slight superficial damage and 5 wounded on board as a result of this encounter. At 2255 Dutch s.s.STAD MAASTRICH (6500 tons.) in F N 66 reported torpedoed in 52° 35' N. 02° 03'E. Entire crew uninjured on board SHEARWATER who is standing by and reports damage unknown Ship listing apparently settling. Rescue tugs KROOMAN and NORMAN proceeding from Yarmouth. Feared H.M. trawler PELTON also sunk.(C. in C. Nore. 0144/24 to Adty

PELTON. (E/S.Trawler.) Sunk by E.Boat while night sweeping alongside No. 5 Buoy. One survivor (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0150/24 and 1715/24.).

P.V.1. P.V.1. will be carried out tonight by one A/C carrying Flares only.

P.Y.A. P.Y.A. will also be carried out and M/L's will act as Striking Force.(C.in C. Nore. 1043/24.)

MOST SECRET.

24. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

P.V.1. / P.V.1. — My 1043. P V A and P V 1 will operate Eastward of Q.Z.S. 30 keeping South of 52° 30' N, commencing P.V.A. at 1900 till daylight/25th. P.V.1 at 2200 to 0200/25. M.L's will show minor War vessels recognition signals when in touch with enemy in vicinity of friendly warships or convoy. O patrol will keep to the Northward of No. 5 buoy (latitude 52° 30' N) arriving there at about 2100.(C. in C. Nore 1454/24.

M.T.B.'s between Ostend and Hook. — 44. Weather permitting M.T.B's are to operate tonight between Ostend and Hook of Holland. If conditions suitable Flushing Road should be visited. Any vessel met east of 2° 15' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore 1128/24.)

M.T.B's 22,31, and 32 sailed 2105 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2107/24.)

Patrol in Faroes-Iceland Passage. — Intend to leave Scapa in HOOD with EDINBURGH and four destroyers about 1730/24 and proceed along meridian 4° west speed of advance 17 knots to operate near line joining 63° N. 4° W, and 66° N. 007°W. Request I may be informed of any intended air co-operation. (D.C.I. 1415/24 to C. in C. H.F.)

Two M.L's operating 5 miles to Eastward of Channel between number five and Aldeburgh. Three M.T.B's leave Harwich 2100 returning daylight 25th Dec. proceeding by South Shipwash Buoy and Galloper. One aircraft may drop flares between 2200/24 and 0200/25. vicinity of M.L's.(C.in C. Nore 1550/24. to EGRET.)

Submarines.

ADMIRALTY. — Cancel my 1554/22. (C. in C. W.A.1132/24.)

Patrol off Lorient to remain. — Your 1756/23. It is considered of great importance that the reconnaissance of the area referred to in paragraph A should not be withdrawn at the present time. A submarine should therefore remain in this area. 2. The proposal, however, for SEVERN to carry out a short patrol of the nature referred to is approved.(V.C.N.S.1258/24 to V.A.S.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1320/24 and 1810/24.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/25. (V.A.S. 1547/24.)

G. 13.)
G. 15.) Sailed. E.T.A. Bangor Bay 0200/25. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1920/24.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. FAIR will not be flown tonight. (C. in C. Rosyth 0030/24.) Following being flown today: S.9., HORNLI, THOSE Southern half only, S.A. 1A., S.A.2., and S.A.3.,(C. in C. Rosyth 0746/24.) 2 Blenheims leave Dyce 0845 for Flamborough and return (C. in C. Rosyth 0748/24.) Patrol VIKING not being flown today. (C. in C. Rosyth 1100/24.) My 1214/23 and 2249/23. Request Patrol similar to MUGGY during period of B.C.1's Patrol. (C. in C. H.F. 1422/24 to C. in C. Rosyth. Your 1422/24. MUGGY will be flown daily between 25/12 and 28/12 inclusive by one Sunderland. (C. in C. Rosyth 1744/24 to C. in C. H.F.) FAIR will not be flown tonight. (C. in C. Rosyth 2300/24 to C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Air Activity.

PETERTON. (British, 5221 Tons.) Attacked by A/C. in 54° 51' N. 13° 13' W.(Plymouth W/T 0910/24.) Bombed and gunned. (Portishead Radio 0912/24.) Sailed Tug RESTIVE from Campbeltown at 1122 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1215/24 to C. in C. W.A.) A/C. attacking in 081° Tory Island 146 miles (Valentia Radio 1422/24.) Detach one Corvette to stand by. Latest position given is 54° 54' N. 12° 29' W. at 1422. (C. in C. W.A. 1700/24 to BROKE.) Proceed to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2120/24 to SOUTHERN PRIDE.)

Portsmouth. My 2120/23. Apparently no H.E. fell in Dockyard. Damage due to large explosion outside. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1440/24. to Admy.) Following damage caused by Air-Raid at 1848/23. (Supt.C.E. Portsmouth 1515/24.) Damage to R.M. Barracks. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1553/24.)

MOST SECRET.

24. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Liverpool. Following damage to Adty Establishments in Air-Raids of Nights 20/21 and 21/22/. (S.C.E. Liverpool 1742/24 to C.E. in C.

Oban. My 1815/23. Further details as follows:-

BREDA. (Dutch, 6941 tons. Damaged near miss. Endeavoured beach but sunk in 13 fathoms Lochnell Bay.

TUVA. (Dutch, 4652 tons. Direct hit heavy calibre bomb in No. 4 hold. Seven killed including three engineers. Vessel got under way with assistance and beached about 2350/23 on Bogha Na Garbhard, on rock. Salvage prospects good. Captain reports he opened fire. Several hits probable.

DAN-Y-BRYN. (British 5117 tons) Damaged above water-line. Bomb entered forecastle, emerged through shell plating and failed to explode. Requires repairs.

FLYNDERBORG. (British, 2022 tons) Hit by two bombs. One unexploded (500 kilos) rendered safe by B.S.O. damage slight. Second wireless operator seriously injured. Ship machine gunned. Two bombers, probably three, made the attack on convoy anchorage. Eight bombs reported dropped after red flares. Approach made from seaward on northeasterly course. Detailed written report follows.(F.O.I.C. Oban 1935/24 to Adty.)

Harwich. Shingle Street reports heavy Explosion seen and heard 152° 5 miles from lookout. Several vessels near.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0900/24 to C. in C. Nore.)

Liverpool. Port re-opened. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1056/24.)

INTREPID. Sailed 1155. E.T.A. Scapa 1030/25.
ICARUS. (F.O. Number 1202/24.)

MOST SECRET.

24. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

War Channel Search.

Intend sailing 12th M/S group search war channel from 090° Cruden Bay 6 miles to Kinnaird Head 000° 6 miles, R/V at 2230/24/12, thence returning searching war channel ahead of convoy W N 58 to Girdleness 090° 7 miles due 0700/25/12.(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1441/24 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 1208/15.
1. Programme is concurred in generally but it is desired to lay S.N.71 before S.N.7.

2. The proposals contained in your 1650/19 are concurred in but it is essential that the minimum amount of ground be taken up to the southward of S.N.11 and that the mines should extend as far as possible towards the ice.
(V.C.N.S. 1802/24 to R.A.N.L.)

Plymouth.

Since my 1815/17 one mine detonated at 1107 in approximate position 160 degrees Rame Head 2 miles. A/S Trawler JASPER passed over position at slow speed 2 minutes previously.(C. in C. W.A. 1951/24

Enemy Intelligence.

Harwich Area.

127th Infantry Brigade report that at 2120/23 their platoon post in position 815600 heard motor boat about 600 yards off shore proceeding in N. Easterly direction. Engines of boat described as sounding like aero engines. Report originates from one sentry said to be unreliable source and is not confirmed by any other.(F.O.I.C.Harwich 0030/24 to C. in C. Nore.)

Norwegian Coastal Traffic.

Aircraft reconnaissance today observes eight merchant ships of 2,000 to 5,000 tons used inner canals between Stadtlandet and Kristansund.
(V.A.S. 1919/24. to SEATOR.)

MOST SECRET.

24. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

WAR WITCH. (M/S Trawler) Ashore on Cork Sands. Sailed Tug KENIA 0300 to assist.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0308/24.)

LORD HOWARD. (H.M. Drifter) Sank in S/M Basin at 0300 today after collision with H.M.Yacht RADIANT. No casualties. (V.A. Dover 0951/24.

DAGFRED. (Norwegian 443 Tons) In collision with a Trawler at 0258.2/25/11 in 12 miles South of Mull of Kintyre. Slight damage to both. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1225 B./24.)

Y.C. 23. Foundered in deep water after being salved. Pump suctions choked. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1820/24.)

MOST SECRET.

24.12.40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.
O.B. 263. Cancel my 1840/23. Sailing 0230/24 (N.C.S.O. Oban 0130/24).

F.N. 66. Engagement of VERDUN (escort) with E-boat (C. in C. Nore 0144/24) See E-boats.

C.B.O. 263. Cancel my 2046/23. Oban portion has now sailed (C. in C. W.A. 0238/24). List (N.C.S.O. Oban 1353/24 1715/24).

H.X. 93. Estimated position at 0630/24 (C. in C. W.A. 0320/24 to ABERDEEN).

W.N. 60. Code "Chitty" 0930/26. Escorts BLACKFLY, BERKSHIRE 5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 0948/24).

W.N. 59. (O). 0700/24. No escort available Oban . 11 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban 1103/24).

O.B. 265. Amend my 1045/23 (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1153/24).

H.X. 100. Date and route (D.T.D. 1256/24).

H.X. 93. 8 hours late at R.V. Heavy gale 14/12. All ships now reported except ANTHEA sunk in collision (D.T.D. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1342/24).

H.X. 92. Heavy W. gales. R.V. position and date changed. Convoy 14 hours early. 11 ships then in company. ROTORUA, TOWA and MACEDONIER torpedoed and sunk while unescorted. STUREHOLM not reported. (D.T.D. 1356/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

F.N. 67. 0920/24. 72 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1407/24.) Harwich to Hull ships sailed 1500/24 (N.C.S.O. Harwich 1556/24).

W.N. 58. Duncansby Head 1430. E.T.A. 57° 50'N, 2100 (CAPE ARGONA, 1430/24).

O.B.O. O.B.O. sailed 0330/24 (N.C.S.O. Oban 1455/24).

E.N. 43. Arrived (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1502/24).

F.S. 69. Sailed 1400/24. 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1515/24).

F.N. 65. All Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1524/24) Humber ships arrived (F.O. Humber 1642/24). Tyne section (less BRAVELEY) arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 1650/24).

/O.B. 266.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

O.B. 266.	1330/28. Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1546/24).
O.B.O. 264.	0600/25. Escort LADY MADELINE.
S.L.S. 61.	Route (D.T.D. 1659/24 to N.C.S.O. Freetown)
E.N. 45.	To proceed outside Hebrides. (A.C.O.S. 1752/24) Your 1752. Proceeding outside Minches. (SPURS 2220/24).
S.L. 58.	My 1859/19. Destination changed. (D.T.D. 1857/24). A/C report of position at 1245. (C. in C. W.A. 1922/24 to BROKE).
W.N. 59.	Sailing 1903/24. H.M.T.'s CAPE MARIATO and INDIAN STAR. 15 ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1945/24).
S.L.S. 58.	24 hours late. Estimated position at 0800/25. (C. in C. W.A. 2326/24 to WELLINGTON).
E.N. 46.	2230/24. H.M.T's GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE. Additional escort FLEETWOOD. 24 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 2353/24 2354/24).
E.N. 45.	000° Duncansby at 840/24 (A.C.O.S. 0845/24). C. in C. Rosyth 1450. Convoy to proceed outside Hebrides (A.C.O.S. 1752/24). My 1536/24. E.N. 45 proceeding outside Hebrides (A.C.O.S. 1944/24).
F.S. 69.	My 1939/23 (movement of COTSWOLD and F.S. 69) Cancel concluding entry under departure (C. in C. Rosyth 0927/24).
F.S. 68.	Proceed to form additional escort to F.S. 68 in place of SHEARWATER (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0940/24 to GUILLEMOT).

/H.X. 95.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

H.X. 95.) O.B. 263.)	To keep clear of H.X. 95, amended route for O.B. 263 (details) then by route previously ordered. (C. in C. W.A. 1108/24 to ROCHESTER).
O.B. 263.	Sailed ROCHESTER, WILD SWAN, PERIWINKLE, FLEUR DE LYS and GARDENIA all to escort O.B.263. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1130/24). Sailed WILD SWAN to overtake convoy (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2145/24).
S.L.S. 58.	Meet S.L.S. 58 9 ships unescorted 1000/26 (position and route) thence to anchorage in Lynn of Lorn North of Black Is. MARSDALE for Clyde joins 1000/26. (C. in C. W.A. 1152/24 to HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER). My 1152/24. Amend time of R/V para (a) to read 1000/27. Convoy is 24 hours late. (C. in C. W.A. 2328/24 to HIGHLANDER).
O.B. 264.	Sailed GEORGETOWN escort for O.B. 264. (F. O.I.C. Liverpool 1215/24 to C. in C. W.A.);
O.B. . 264. O.B.M. 264. O.B.C. 264.	Liverpool Section of O.B. 264 cancelled. YORK CITY to escort O.B.M. 264 to rendezvous with O.B.C. 264 in 000° Altacarry 8 miles at 1300/25. If relieved by GEORGETOWN YORK CITY to return to base. Further signal will be made appointing Commodore. (C. in C. W.A. 1352/24 to YORK CITY).
O.B. 264.	C. in C. W.A. 1528/24 request cancel instruction given Master of MOVERIA to act as Commodore as far as Oban rendezvous. S.S. CRESSENE as with Milford Haven portion. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1810/24 to ACTIVE).
	Cancel my 1352/24 and 1528/24 not to all addresses Commodore and one other ship sailed Bar Light Vessel at 1710/24 speed 10 knots and should join O.B. 264 at Clyde rendezvous. (C. in C. W.A. 1852/24 to ACTIVE).

/B.H.X. 99.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

H.X. 99. Ocean escort AURANIA returning Halifax through 43.25N. 60.00W. by 1/1 Capt 1/c Bermuda 1143/24).

F.S. 71. Intend sail BARLAKE 1400/26 to join F.S. 71 at 200. Buoy for Gransby. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1444/24).

W.N. 57.
F.N. 65.
F.S. 69.
E.N. 46. Rosyth movements. (C. in C. Rosyth 2351/24).

TRHANA My 1915/23 for TRANIO read TRHANA (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0849/24).

Independent Sailings. My 1859/21 refers to routeing only. Ships of 13 knots and over to continue to be sailed independently. Routeing as regards Cape Verde Is. to continue to conform with instructions contained in Admty 1612/19/11 and 1758/26/11. (D.T.D. 1705/24 to A.I.C. 17).

H.X. 95. Add to 1536 (1531/22 intended) H.X. 95 058° 07'N, 011° 12'W 135° at 0300 altering to 143° (A.C.O.S. 1722/24).

My 2211/24 (ready "Following ships reported by VETERAN by aircraft in H.X. 95. should read, following ships in HX 95 reported not present by VETERAN via aircraft. (C. in C. W. A. 0912/25).

4. M.V.'s. Intend sailing 4 mv/s including one tanker 1730/24.E.T.A. Neb. 0900/25. Request escort may be arranged. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 0957/24 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 0957 postponed 24 hours. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1056/24).

5. M.V.'s. Your 1737/23 arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1434/24).

My 1237/24 (Re sailing of Group of 5 M.V's and tug towing B.P. target escorted by KINGSTON ANDALUSITE & Pearl from Needles) sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1910/24).

/H.X. 99.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

H.X. 99.

Intend sailing ALAUNIA and PORPOISE as ocean escorts for H.X. 99 both returning to Halifax.
(F.O.3.B.S. 1544/24 to Admty).

S.L.S. 58.

S.L.S. 58. Meet (List)
(C. in C. W.A. 1826/24 to HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER).

O.B. 264 (S).

Escort GEORGETOWN from Liverpool, ACTIVE ANTELOPE TARANTELLA PICOTTEE from Clyde, and LADY MADELINE from Oban ACTIVE is Senior Officer.
(Capt D. Greenock 1243/24).

Troop Convoys.
W.S. 5B.

Following are proposed embarkation arrangements for W.S.5 B. (20 ships) (Code Number, Present position, Preliminary Movements, Embarkation Port, Numbersto be embarded, Embarkation Dates) (D.S.T. 0344/24 to D.S.T.O's)

W.S. 5A.

Route for W.S. 5A. Position H. is to be transferred fifty miles 270°.
(D.C.D.(F) 1830/24 to BERWICK).

Left convoy W.S.5A. in 046° 30'N 025° 56'W. at 1330 H.S.T. All well. DUNEDIN had not joined. Intend to pass through position (a) 051° 30'N 016° 30'W (b) 056° N. 015°W (c) 056° 40' N 009° 20' W and thence via Minches to Scapa.
(C.S.15. 2342/24 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Foreign Legion Movement.

Am anxious to know if CAPA OLMO taking part of Legion to Freetown has arrived Duala. (C.in C. S.A., 1006R/24 to DELHI).

Your 1153/22 CAPO OLMO arrived Duala 23/12 and should be able to sail with TOUAREG 25/12 as in my 1615/21. (C.in C. S.A., 1247/24 to D. of S.T.)

Your 1153/22 to N.C.S.O. Duala and your 1005/24. CAPO OLMO arrived Duala 1900/23. (DELHI, 1646/24 to C.in C. S.A.).

Operation "Ration".

Operation "RATION" is to be carried out as opportunity offers and forces allow on 26th, 27th and 28th/12.
My 2100/13 and your 0110/14. Operation should be carried out as on previous occasions. After one or two interceptions it seems probable that escort will accompany ships beyond Spanish territorial waters and occasions will then arise to stop an escorted vessel or convoy.
(V.C.N.S. 1849/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

North Atlantic.

Suspicious Ship.

Following has been read:-
QQQQ de GLD (Lands End Radio) 37° 32' N., 22° 42'W., MAHSUD being followed by suspicious vessel.
(Plymouth W/T 0814/24).

S/M Patrol. Biscay.

Patrol report of USK and UNIQUE blank. UPHOLDER reports more traffic off Biscay than is reasonable, particularly three tankers apparently Spanish totalling 16 thousand tons westbound in ballast all outside territorial waters. Most Merchant vessels seen by UPHOLDER by day had Spanish colours.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1104/24 to V.A.S.).

Force H.

Arrival 1300/24/12 S.O. Force H in RENOWN, MALAYA, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FAULKNOR, FORESTER, FOXHOUND, FURY, FORTUNE, FIREDRAKE, DUNCAN, ISIS, WISHART, ENCOUNTER, JAGUAR, HERO, HERWARD, HASTY, CLAN FORBES, CLAN FRASER.
(S.O.I., Gib., 1304/24).

/ Convoy W.S.5A. ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoy W.S.5A. Admiralty 1322/19 and 1323/19. ARGUS and BONAVENTURE are to remain in company with DUNEDIN and M.T. ships. ARGUS BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN and M.T. ships part company from convoy W.S. five A as requisite to rendezvous with escort in position 057° 00' N. 016° 00' W. at 1400 zone - one, Friday 27/12. Escort consists of HERO, HEREWARD, FINDHORN, VIDETTE, VELOX ordered to pass through rendezvous steering 275 degrees. Speed of convoy is to be adjusted to pass Europa Point at 0500 zone - one Sunday 29/12. BONAVENTURE is to part company as requisite to pass Northern Entrance of Gibraltar at 1830 zone - one Saturday 28/12. Orders regarding Flying off and Relief Escort follow.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1330/24 to ARGUS, BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN.

Air Report. 2 routine A.S. patrols. 1 surface recco. to west. 2 A/C. escorts for H.M. ships. Area covered 3 degs. West to 9 degs. West. (200 Group 1700/24).

TRIUMPH, UPHOLDER, UNIQUE. S.O. Force H 1601/20 to V.A. (S). After discussions with submarine Commanding Officer intend to sail TRIUMPH, UPHOLDER and UNIQUE p.m./27 to carry out patrol required by S.O. Force H on 31/12 whilst on passage to Malta. Request rest period for submarines be arranged at Malta.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1706/24 to C.in C. Med.).

TRIUMPH. V.A.(S) 1240/S/11. My 1706/24/12. Is it intended that TRIUMPH should also proceed to Malta after patrol?
(F.O.C.N.A. 1720/24 to Admty.)

Azores Patrol, Situation. Situation Report 1200/24:
S.L.39 32° 20' N. 21° 15' W. 011° 8
S.L. 39(S) 28° 40' N. 22° 20' W. 011° 6½
Force K 35° N. 30° W. 155° 15
W.S.5A. 46° N. 26° W. 170° 11
S.S. MONARCH OF BERMUDA 38° N. 22° W. 355° 17.
S.S. HELENUS 41½° N. 22° W. 355° 11½.
EL ARGENTINA 38° N. 23° W. 350° 11.
(D.O.D.(F) 1749/24 to TRIDENT, CACHALOT).

Force K., signals. For security reasons as from 0001 G.M.T. 26/12 messages for S.O. Force K, Force K, FORMIDABLE, NORFOLK, FURIOUS, and BERWICK are to be routed on America and West Indies, and North Atlantic, and South Atlantic routines. As from 001 G.M.T./26 messages for C.S.15, NAIAD, BONAVENTURE, ARGUS, and DUNEDIN are to be routed in normal manner. (D.S.D. 1837/24, to C.in C's and F.O.C.N.A.) (489).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Enemy Raider.

042. D/F bearings indicate presence of an enemy surface unit in neighbourhood 026° S. 007° W. 2300 H/23.
(C.in C. S.A. 0335H/24 to S.O. Force L).

Your 0335H/24 and my 0821/24.
Bearings available her give positions near Ascension. (D.D.I.C. 0853/24 to C.in C. S.A.).

D/F bearing at 0706 G.M.T. 24/12 indicates enemy surface unit possibly near position 5° S. 15° W. Probably not alternative position for unit mentioned in my 0335/24 but different unit. Possible alternative position for unit mentioned in my 0335/24 is between St. Helena and Ascension.
(C.in C. S.A. 1125 H/24 to S.O. Force M.)

Shipping,
Cape Agulhas.

Following is gist of S.O.(I)Capetown's 1524/19/12: - Although merchant ships should normally be routed 40 miles south of Cape Agulhas cases have occurred where masters of heavily laden and low powered ships have considered their ships endangered thereby on account of prevailing conditions, and have therefore crossed about 15 miles south of Cape Agulhas. This is the most dangerous area. If forced by weather to keep to northward Masters should pass either within 5 miles or outside 25 miles of Cape Agulhas and this deviation to be made only if absolutely necessary as the danger of mines being laid is always present and the best safeguard is deep water.
(S.O.I. Freetown to N.C.S.O's, Freetown Intelligence Area 0808/24).

SHAHRISTAN,
sabotage.

C.A.F.O. 1419/40. Fire occurred suddenly in number three hold of SHAHRISTAN at 0005Z/15 vessel carrying government stores from Swansea to Suez. Seat of fire traced to cases containing tins of rolled bacon loaded 21/11 at Swansea as top cargo. From available evidence appears fire could only have been started by sabotage. No possibility of spontaneous combustion. Swansea agents Strick Scrch, Stevedores Bayana. Supply note shows cases indexed 405/21 and 405/22 and cases marked J A H and Company Liverpool and St. O C P and Company Limited. Vessel is oil burning. Further search should be made when cargo is discharged Suez. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1201/24 to Admty.)

/ FURIOUS,
R.A.F. personnel .....

MOST SECRET.

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24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

FURIOUS
R.A.F. personnel.

X/743/24 reference our X 322/20 to A.O.C.in C. Following additional R.A.F. personnel on board FURIOUS will require onward passage to Takoradi.
Officers 42 civilians 2 Warrant Officers 4 Flight Sergeants and Sergeants 55 Airmen 44. (Air Min., 1421/24 to S.O.I.C. Freetown).

DELHI.

Arrived Cameroons River 1630/24. (DELHI, 1703/24).

DELHI.

Lagos departure 0934/23 for Manoka. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1733Z/24).

CARTON.

Arrival 1630/24. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1721Z/24).

Brest-Dakar, Casablanca-Dakar Cables.

It is under consideration to cut Brest-Dakar, Casablanca-Dakar cables since enemy are using these to advantage. Is French cable ship still in vicinity? (D.S.D. 1832/24 to C.in C. S.A.)

EMPIRE VOICE, HYDROUSSA.

EMPIRE VOICE due Freetown 19/12 from U.K. 2/12 and HYDROUSSA due Freetown 20/12 from Capetown 4/12 have not arrived. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1838/24 to Admty.)

COLONIAL.

Your 1628/21. Have arranged for Portuguese COLONIAL to call at Freetown. Request number of berths required. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1727/24 to C.in C. S.A.)

American Neutral Zone.

Until further notice No Neutral ship is to be stopped within so called American Neutral Zone except upon express orders from Admiralty or C.in C. S.A. Neutrals for this purpose include French Ships. Limit Zones are given in my 1929/24. (C.in C. S.A., 1927Z/24).

My 1927/24. The limits of so called American neutrality zones are lines passing through following positions:
(a) 044° 46' North 060° West.
(b) 020° north 060° west
(c) 005° north 024° west
(d) 058° south 037° west
(e) 068° south 080° west
(f) Equator 037° west
(g) 015° north 120° west
(h) 048° 30' north 136° west.
(C.in C. S.A. 1929Z/24).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Transport of Aircraft. My 1844/6. Additional proposals. (W.O. Force H., 1930/24) See Mediterranean Vol.

Cables, Sollum. Impossible provide Sollum cable diversion in period of less than three months owing to difficulty in getting suitable ship on to spot. Improvement of this situation under active consideration. Meanwhile cable ship RETRIEVER is to proceed with repairs in Red Sea. Is any additional land cable or wireless equipment required to improve Sollum communications? (W.O. 0730/24 to C.in C. M.E.).

Special Operational Summary. Dusk 23/12. 10 Wellingtons 148 Squadron despatched in 2 echelons to attack Castel Benito aerodrome. Only one aircraft able locate target and dropped 3000 lbs. G.P. and 480 lbs. incendiary in 2 sticks from 2500 feet. Perimeter near large hangars and Northern boundary straddled. 3 explosions followed. Remaining 9 aircraft attacked Tripoli Harbour and town. First echelon 5 Wellingtons dropped 14750 lbs. G.P. and 2400 lbs. incendiaries from 6000 feet. 20 bombs seen to explode on Customs houses and jetty. Seaplane hangar hit resulting in large white fire. Near misses on Castello and railway station. Hits on jetty just North of power station and incendiaries east of same. Second echelon 4 Wellingtons dropped 12000 lbs. G.P. and 1920 lbs. incendiaries from 8000 feet. Custom House jetty hit several times resulting in many fires and one explosion. Power Station straddled. S.W. of seaplane hangars 9 explosions and fires were started. Extensive seen 50 miles away and several confirmations that explosions near seaplane hangar were caused by fuel. Considerable efforts were made to locate Castel Benito some aircraft searching for nearly 2 hours through heavy ground haze. Then chose Tripoli for target attracted by A.A. fire. All aircraft returned safely, and undamaged by A.A. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 0835/24).

Alexandria. Air raid 0345, one machine, 4 bombs in sea. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0926/24).

/ Warning of A.C. Approach. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Warning of A.C. Approach.

Your 1651/27/11. The limitations referred to apply almost equally to type 281 as to type 279. Conversion by ships staff is impracticable. Dockyard time about 6 weeks. Stores required for conversion will not be available for 6 months. (D.S.D. 1057/24 to C.in C. Med.)

OTUS
OSIRIS

My 1106/21. (No trace in W/T). After passing through D. 034° 30' 014° (?18') proceed to Malta as directed by V.A. Malta adjust speed to arrive OTUS dawn 28/12 OSIRIS dawn 29/12. (Capt. S.1, 1131/24, to OTUS, OSIRIS).

Greece.

Situation. R.A.F. heavily bombed Valona this morning. Numerous aircraft on ground destroyed. 24 large merchant ships in the harbour. Also cruisers off Saseno and what seemed to be submarines in the harbour. (British M.M., Athens, to C.in C. M.E. 1203/24).

Air Report.
Libya.

Operational Summary No. 197 up to 1200 hours 24/12.
Para 1. Egypt. Day 23/12. No bombing operations. Offensive patrols by Hurricanes between Bardia and Tobruk shot down 2 S.79's and 1 CR.42 confirmed and 1 S.79 unconfirmed. Reconnaissances by Hurricanes and Lysander of Bardia Tobruk and Giarabub reported camps at Gambut and El Adem evacuated. 60 M.T. vehicles at Giarabub. No change in military situation Bardia. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1212/24).

Malta Air Report.

"I" 179 24/12. Combined services report. Malta up to 1700 hours 24/12. All times G.M.T. 0705 - 1210.

Naples.

Glen Martin 431 flight reconnaissance Naples. In harbour 1 LITTORIO battleship 1 ZARA class cruiser in Dry Dock 8 destroyers - 2 Fleet auxiliaries 10,000 tons - 4 M/Vs. 12,000 tons - 1 hospital ship and a number of small M/Bs. up to 2,000 tons. 1 M/V 7,000 tons entering harbour. 1 S, 79 shot down into the sea in flames.

/ Taranto .....

MOST SECRET.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Taranto.

0745 - 1214. Glenn Martin 431 flight reconnaissance Taranto. Outer harbour - 1 damaged CAVOUR battleship with 3 destroyers alongside. 1 other battleship and 1 cruiser - 12 M/V's. 6,000 tons 1 M/V 5,000 tons. Inner harbour - 6 cruisers 9 destroyers - and 1 M/V 6,000 tons. 29 Cant.Z. 501's or 506's. Balloons were flying at 8,000 feet from Southern Jetty and southern reaches outer harbour. Operations by Wellingtons of 148 Squadron against Tripoli harbour and Castel Benito night 23/24 December reported in my "I" 178 24/12.
No enemy air activity over Malta.
(H.Q. R.A.F., Med., 1700/24).

OTUS
OSIRIS
TRUANT
PARTHIAN
TETRARCH

Captain (S) 1's 1131/24. From D proceed direct to 035° 31' North 014° 31' East thence to arrive off grand harbour at 0700 on day ordered. Belimara Light will be exhibited from 0200 on both days. TRUANT will leave Malta at 1715/28 through (corrupt group) 38' N. 014° 07' E. thence on approximate course. PARTHIAN and H.M.S. TETRARCH will probably leave Malta at about (?same time) through same position thence South to 35° North before proceeding on patrol. All times zone minus (-) one.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 2015/24 to OTUS and OSIRIS).

Main Force.

Arrivals 24/12 C.in C. Mediterranean in WARSPITE, ILLUSTRIOUS, VALIANT, DAINTY, DIAMOND, ILEX, FIONA, PERTH 14th Destroyer Flotilla (less GRIFFIN).
(S.O.I., Alexandria, 1825/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Contraband Trade. Persian Gulf.

From Brigadier French (Inspector General of Censors)24/12. Following is gist of memorandum on the Gulf Trade compiled from intercepts by Bombay Censorship. Normally Bombay is the clearing centre for business correspondence concerning this trade. Goods are reaching Iran via Black and Caspian Seas from Germany. Iran pre-war exported wheat now trying purchase 30,000 tons Karachi. Iraq carefully watching exports. There may be leakage to enemy of commodities from Java India Straits Ceylon through Bahrein Kuwait Dubai Gwadar and Iraq. Authorities in these places when they exercise control do not appear to stop goods marked on arrival for re-export presumably assuming countries of origin watch this. Doubtful whether these countries appreciate resultant risk. Indian currency regulations permit finance by India of goods shipped Japan and Dutch East Indies to Persia to countries classified as Empire. All Gulf ports not in Iran are so classified. Memorandum posted by air 19/12. Please say if your evidence confirms above information.

Contraband Control and stronger naval forces in Gulf are best means of hampering this trade but severe limitation of exports from India Burma Straits Ceylon Java under Unified Control would help. Smuggling by dhows from west coast profitable and not difficult. Whole question most complicated. Failing contraband Control strongly recommend strong and experienced N.S.W. Officers in Gulf and India to investigate and collaborate. So far as possible have verified memorandum from censorship records which appear careful and detailed. Mails transmitting Bombay to and from Japan Iraq are comparatively small but there are alternative routes namely. (1) Air (2) Surface Quetta and Calcutta (3) Siberian Railway (4) Direct Boat. Three and four would evade all censorship. Three is in use. F.O.C.R.I.N. concurs in views expressed in foregoing telegram. (Ends).
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0559Z/24 to Adty).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Cont'd.)

SHROPSHIRE. SHROPSHIRE is to leave (? Aden) a.m./27 and proceed to Mombasa adjusting speed to arrive a.m./31.
(C.in C. E.I. 00062/24).

QUEEN MARY. QUEEN ELIZABETH. Adty. 1927/18 para.3. It is understood that QUEEN MARY will visit Trincomalee again in February and both QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH in April. In these circumstances it is considered preferable that tug SIR CUTHBERT MURRAY should remain at Trincomalee after January transhipment rather than return to Vizagapatam against monsoon and be obliged to make passage again a month later. Can this be arranged?
(C.in C. E.I. 19103/24 to D. of S.T.)

Ship Recognition. My 1412/18/11. Request early reply. The number of suggestions I am receiving from H.M. Ships and merchant ships confirms my opinion of the urgent need for a satisfactory system of recognition between them by day and night A.M.1280/21, further emphasises it.
(C.in C. E.I. 1330/24 to Adty).

SHILLONG. Mv 1856/16. # No confirmation of SHILLONG'S report yet received. Request Masters who were in the vicinity may be questioned.
(C.in C. E.I. 14162/23 to A.C.N.B. etc.)

(Re Q distress signal received by SHILLONG).

Aden Air Report. Hein Bombed. Summary No. 196 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 24/12. Following Sorties of 8 Sqdn. attacked Hein 10° 53'N, 46° 54'E. At 1145 low pattern bombing by 3 Blenheims apparently considerably damaged shops. At 1160, low dive bombing by 3 Blenheims further damaged target. No opposition. 1 Blenheim 203 Squadron proceeded Kamaran for convoy duties. 3 Gladiators 94 Squadron patrolled over Aden 1030 to 1105. Kamaran reports single aircraft flew over Kamaran and Northern Approaches at great height 1150 22/12.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1815/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.12.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

W.A.4.B. Arrival 1300Z/24 SOUTHAMPTON. Departure 1900Z/24 KANDAHAR for W.A.4.B. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1903Z/24).

China.

H.M.I. Navy Representative. Chiefs of Staff No.37 to C.in C. Far East and C.in C. China. Action authorised or being implemented on report of staff conversations with H.M.I.representatives. (1st S.L. to C.in C. China 2132/24). See Operations Volume.

Aerodromes. Malaya. My 0931/25. Latest information concerning R.A.F. developments in Malaya is given in H.Q. F.East's message A.C.A.195 of 23/12 to Air Ministry. (C.in C. China 0030Z/24 to Adty).

America and West Indies.

CORNWALL. Arrived Halifax December 24 from B.X.H.97. (S.O.(I) Halifax 0043/24).

RAJPUTANA. LACONIA. Halifax (arrival ?) 23/12 RAJPUTANA from H.X.94. Departure LACONIA ocean escort H.X.96. (S.O.(I) Halifax 0930/24).

DESPATCH. To leave Jamaica 23/12 and proceed to Nassau arriving 30/12. Probable duration of visit three days. Governor Bahamas informed. (C.in C. A.M.I. 1132/24 to S.O. W.I.F.)

A/S Yachts. [redacted] Three A/S/M fitted Yachts, VISON HUSKY and ELK loaned by M.O.H. Ottawa for winter have arrived at Bermuda. VISON and HUSKY are being sent immediately to Trinidad and ELK is being retained at Bermuda for the present. These are only A/S/M fitted vessels available to me until stores to complete type 128A fitted and being fitted at Bermuda in other vessels are sent. I am concerned about state of A/S defence particularly at Trinidad where Force K. may be temporarily based at any time, and request shipment of outstanding store may now be treated as most urgent.

My 1642/30/11 and my 1223/7/12 refer. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1922/24 to Adty).

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Canadian Destroyers for Western Approaches.

Your 2156/22/12. Request for any ships you can send us for escorts. ASSINIBOINE RESTIGOUCHE ST.FRANCIS COLUMBIA will be sailed for Western Approaches via St.John N.F. about 15/1/41, or earlier if this date can be improved upon. Halifax destroyer force will then be out to a clinch with one only seaworthy TOWN class speed presently limited 24 knots.
(C.N.S. Canada, 1257/24 to Admty).

SIBONEY.

Following from N.N.W. 1130/19 from N.A. Madrid to S.O.(I) Bermuda. American ship SIBONEY sailed Lisbon for Bermuda 20/12. Careful search should be made for these documents which should be photostated and returned to LISTO. Photostat copies should be sent to N.N.W. first available opportunity.
(N.N.W. .D. 1944/24 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.

Raider Survivors.

My 07042/24. (Survivors from captured ships). District officer Kaveing now reports Hopkins, Chief Officer RANDITANE, and survivors were landed Kraiau P.M./21. Ships from which landed were - HULLERLAND (German) HARVIK (Norwegian) HANYO MARU (Japanese) latter two 22½ knots, eight 6 guns, two torpedo tubes, multiple pom pom A.A. guns, 3 bomber aeroplanes. Four persons who have reached Kaveing state survivors include persons from H MOITANE TURAKINA RINGWOOD HOTOU HOLMWOOD TRIONA VIKNI TRIASTER KOMATA TRIADIC. (Ends). 16352/24.

PORT BRISBANE. raider attack, lessons.

Raider attack on PORT BRISBANE, lessons learnt. Part one. Ships in vicinity of an attack must not assume (a) Darkness in itself gives protection (b) Lapse of time modifies danger. They should at night (a) Ensure proper darkening (b) Post a look-out destroyer beam (c) Be prepared to fight shortest warning (d) Make radical alteration of course after dark.
Part Two. Efficient night sights are desirable but not essential at night range.
Part Three. Use of siren at night for action station is undesirable as it may draw fire before station can be assumed.
(A.C.N.O. 19102/24 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HEINRICH ARP.

German merchant ship HEINRICH ARP arrived Bilbao 22/12. (D.D.I.C. 1056/24 to P.O.C.N.A.)

My 2111/21 ship arrived Bilbao December 22nd. (V.A.S. 1202/24).

LA PLATA.
HEINRICH ARP.

Departure December 23rd LA PLATA German ship HEINRICH ARP Destination unknown. (Bilbao 1248/24).

LA PLATA and German ship HEINRICH HIB left here 2215/23. (Bilbao 1545/24).

KULMERLAND

Landing of captives from. (See FOREIGN STATIONS, Australia).

ATLAS

Arrived 24/12. (Valencia, 0014/24).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ARACATACA.
(torpedoed 22/11).

In continuation of my 2140/23 Chief Officer reports ARACATACA torpedoed at 2130/22/11 in 036° 30' N. 020° 13' W. believed to be by submarine, but enemy not seen. (N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires, 1751/24).

Your 2140/23, stating POTARO arrived Buenos Aires 23/12 with survivors of ARACATACA.
Request full details of sinking of ARACATACA. Nothing known in Admiralty. (D.D.I.C. 1933/24 to N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires).

MANOIN
(torpedoed 21/12).

Swedish Steamer MANOIN 1,253 tons, sunk by torpedo at 2118/21 in 40.45 North 16.50 West.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1753/24 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

1251.

Italian U Boat in approx. position 044° North 003° to 004° West at 1251/24. Probably inward bound for Bordeaux. (V.A.S. 1419/24 to S/M's on patrol, Area B).

C.in C. Rosyth 1644 (see S/M's attacked). Arrange search by destroyers for submarine on assumption she is passing north of Muckle Flugga homeward bound. (C.in C. H.F., 1851/24 to R.A. D.A.F.)

C.in C. Home Fleet's 1851/24.
Three Destroyers leave Scapa 2020/24 and should arrive vicinity of Muckle Flugga about 0200. Request air co-operation if possible. (A.C.O.S. 2011/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).

C.in C. Rosyth's 1644/24. D/F on 4706 Kcs. at 2011/24 indicates U/Boat to the N. Westward of Shetlands.
(D.D.I.C. 2051/24).

A.C.O.S. 2011/24 Sunderland aircraft takes off from Sollum Voe at 0015/25 and proceeds to position 000 degs. Muckle Flugga 20 miles, then 125, carries out a creeping line ahead search on a 20 mile front on a course of 120 degs. for 100 miles unless contact is obtained with you or until Homed on to you by W/T.
Beaufort aircraft carrying out patrol Viking consisting two circuits of cross over 059 degs. 30' north 000 degs. 42' east 061 degs. 00' north 001 degs. 18' east 061 degs. 00' north 000 degs. 42' east 059 degs. 30' north 001 degs. 18' east during daylight hours tomorrow.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2202/24 to Capt. D.8).

/ 2134. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

2134. Following has been read.
SUBMARINE ATTACK.
56° 12'N., 7° 25'W., submarine in vicinity GLOUCESTER CITY 2034 G.M.T.
(Plymouth W/T, T.O.R. 2137/24).

Signals of D/F Fixes. Admiralty's 1826/21. Considered that there are strong reasons for broadcasting "EN CLAIR" all D/F fixes of U Boats in areas frequented by shipping. (reasons). (C.-in C. W.A. 1810/24, to Admty.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian.
1 may have left Madeira area probably for Bordeaux
1 in area Canaries - Cape Juby
1 patrolling Azores area
2 bound for Gironde are N.W. and S.W. of Finisterre respectively about 10° W.
1 bound for Gironde about 47° N., 15° W.
4 more probably moving south from 54° N. or 55° N. keeping west of 16° W.
1 moving north in about 51° 30' N. keeping east of 13° W., others probably following.
German.
1 was about 60° N. 15° W. at 0733/23.
1 may be northbound somewhere about 59° N. 15° W.
1 somewhere about 50° N., to 51° N., 16° W. to 17° W. bound for Lorient.
1 about 57° N. 17° W. at 1203/24.
3 in area 57° N. to 60° N., 18° W. to 21° W.
1 N.E. of Muckle Flugga bound for Bergen or Germany.
(D.D.I.C. 1256/24).

Transport of U/B's to Italy. Busak has been informed by local sympathisers, reliability unassessable, that submarines in sections are arriving in Trieste from Germany for assembly at Monfalcone Yards. Hull arriving in three sections each section on one large railway truck. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1136/24).

M.I.D. Note Reports have been received since August of submarine sections being sent from Germany to Trieste for assembly at Monfalcone. Lately these reports have increased in number and one speaks of such a submarine of 250 tons having been launched at Monfalcone, where her trials were not a success.
Little credence is attached to the reports because:-
(a) The source is graded low
(b) When Bordeaux was being prepared as a base similar reports of Italian submarines being sent through France were received and proved to be false, and
(c) It would be much easier for U boats to be passed through the Straits of Gibraltar.

MOST SECRET.

24.12.1940.
Tuesday.

NOF Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1214.
Ex S/S.

FORM ORANGE.
(A) DYCE Dyc/04/24/12.
(B) A/C Y/48 sighted periscope 58.31 N., 05.48 W. - Low level attack - 1 bomb - no result observed. Drs. called from CV 3 miles west. Time of incident 1214.
(C) Anson Y/48 1st escort to LETITIA, CALIFORNIA, and CHITRAL contacted 58.15 N., 05.48 W. at 1005 hours. Landed Stornoway 1250.
(Pitreavie 1420/24 to Admty.)

Aircraft reports having attacked submarine sighted at periscope depth in position 060° 31' North 005° 48' West at 1215. No result was observed. Aircraft reported by V/S to DOUGLAS and KEPPEL, another aircraft being sent to search until dark.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1450/24).

1830.

Aircraft reports attacking submarine in position 060° 25' north 002° 34' west at 1830. Pilot first saw air bubbles and oil and when over position the outline of a submerged submarine. After attack bubbles ceased and although aircraft remained in vicinity for 15 minutes nothing further seen. Interrogated pilot who was definite he saw the submarine.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1644/24).

RHODODENDRON.

Their Lordships consider that your attack on a U-Boat on 21/11/1940, probably achieved its destruction. They congratualte you and your ships company on this success which was all the more creditable in the rough weather conditions in which the attack was carried out.
(D. A/S.N. 1343/24 to RHODODENDRON).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 2330/25. (D.C. 2350/25.)

Movements.

OTTAWA,
ST. LAURENT.
BATH.
COLUMBIA.
FINLAND.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0015/25.)

KASHMIR,
LONDON,
JERSEY.

Arrived at Plymouth 1050/24.
(C. in C. W.A. 0024/25.)

Nore Command.

Ships of Command out of Action.
(C. in C. Nore 0754/25.)

ACTIVE,
ARETHUSA.

Repairs completed 24/12. Sailed for Greenock (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0952/25.)

O.13 and O.15.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1000/25.)

MANCHESTER CITY.

Will be ready to sail 28/27 if firemen or stokers can be found.(F.O.I.C.Glasgow 1006/25.)

KENYA,
KASHMIR,
FURIOUS,
JERSEY.

Raise steam for full speed with all despatch.(C. in C.W.A. 1040/25.)
KENYA sailed 2052/25.(C. in C.W.A.0008/26.

SCARBOROUGH.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1210/25.)

VERONIQUE.

Sail to meet H.X.96 at 1000/27. E.S.T. in 60° 12' N. 15° W.(C. in C. W.A. 1232/25. to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

VULCAN.

Sailed Southend for Portsmouth. E.T.A. Dover 1350.(N.C.S.O. Thames 1313/25 to C. in C. Nore.)

SHEARWATER.

Arrived 1312/25.(F.O.I.C.Harwich 1319/25.)

MOST SECRET.

25. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

H.M.S. COMMANDER.

Movements Contd.

REPULSE,
VICTORIA,
HOWALI,
NATABELA,
NADINA,
ESKIMO.

Sailed Scapa 1500/25. (A.C.O.S.1515/25.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1536/25.)

CHELMARK.

Arrived 1613/25.(F.O.I.C.Harwich 1634/25.

BRIGHTON.

My 1121/24. Expect will sail AM/27 for Portland.(C. in C.W.A.1703/25.)

ICARUS.

Arrived Scapa from Humber. (A.C.O.S. 1940/25.)

AURORA.

May be sailed to Scapa at your discretion. (V.C.N.S. 2157/25 to C. in C. H.F.)
Return to Scapa with moderate despatch. (C. in C. H.F. 2356/25 to AURORA.)

WOLSEY.
VERNON.

Arrived with F.N.66. (C. in C. Rosyth 2315/25.)

VERSATILE.
VALOROUS.

Sailed with F.N.70.(C. in C. Rosyth 2315/25.)

KENYA.

Sailed from Plymouth 2053/25.(C. in C. W.A. 1014/26.)

Operations.

M.T.B's between Ostend and Hook.

Arrived M.T.B's 31 and 32 at 0943. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1044/25.)

M.T.B.'s between Dieppe and Boulogne.

Intend M.T.B's 69 and 70 to operate tonight, leaving Dover at midnight and returning 0800/26.(V.A. Dover 1230/25.)

Submarines.

L. 23.

Will be in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 0946/25.)

NIMROD.

My 1554/22. Intend sailing 1630/26. (C. in C. W.A. 1444/25.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 25. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

FOUR COUNTIES.

Submarines.

H.M. Arrived Rothesay (S.7. 1535/25.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1730/25.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/26. (V.A.S.1737/25.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. 2 Blenheims leave Dyce 0845 for Flamborough and return (C. in C. Rosyth 0800/25.) Patrol S.9. being flown today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0812/25.)

Oban Area. Flying Restrictions. My 1911/24. Request all R.A.F. Authorities concerned may be informed.

(a) That there is an important convoy assembly anchorage off South West side of Lismore Island Near Oban. Aircraft should keep clear of this area unless approach is necessary for operations.

(b) That Aircraft should avoid flying in the vicinity of the Kyles of Loch Alsh unless this is necessary for operations.(P. of L.D. 2145/25 to Air Ministry.

R/C. of Oban. A/A Defences. Your 1911/24. Fighter Command organising reconnaissance as requested. (Air Ministry 1720/25 to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy ABEHA. Being shadowed by one A/C in 51° 41' N. 1° 19' E.(VANITY 0855/25.)

Orkneys. One Enemy A/C, believed Junker 88, shot down near Skeabrae, Orkneys, by A/C of 804 Sqdn. at 1412. No details of survivors so far.(A.C.C.H. 1438/25.)

The Naze. Coast Guard Naze reports at 1630 two bursts of H.C. fire heard E.N.E. of Naze Lookout at distance.(F.O.I.C.Harwich 1635/25.)

MOST SECRET.

25. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

TUVA. (Beached at Oban after Air-Raid 23/12.) Floated and re-beached at 1500/25 near Lochnell Bay.(N.C.S.O. Oban 2220/25.) Unexploded Bomb discovered in Ship's side. (N.O.I.C. Oban 2250/26.)

Firth of Tay. One A/C dropped 2 Bombs near Convoy EN.46, at 1650 today.(D.S.478.)

Mining.

Luydcote Pass. Your 1626/21. Request you arrange for laying in Luydcote Pass at first opportunity. Decision as to other areas will be communicated.(V.C.N.S. 1155/25. to C. in C. Nore.)

Plymouth. R.N.O. Fowey's 1040/25. M.G.B.50 struck a Mine 4 miles S.W. of Rame Head and is returning to Fowey. E.T.A. 1400. (C. in C. W.A. 1256/25.)

Liverpool. S.S. VICTORIA exploded 3 mines at 1400/23 inward bound. Exploded a further 4 mines at 2330/23 outward bound. Speed on both occasions 20 knots. No mine exploded nearer than 50 yards from vessel. All mines exploded between position 3 miles west of Bar L.V. and S.1. black. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1301/25.)

INTREPID. Arrived Scapa 1025 from Humber.(A.C.O.S. 1305/25.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coastal Shipping. My 1145/18.(One) It is reported from North Norway that 14 vessels have left Kirkenes with iron ore for Germany since early November. Further stated some of those were sunk, in consequence crews have been declining to sail in ? certain ships from Kirkenes. 6 3.

2. Today's press states war insurance rates north of Trondjhem have been doubled.(N.A. Stockholm 1250/24 to D.N.I.)

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.Contd.

M/V. in Western Channel.

Aircraft report a 3000-5000 Ton M/V in 49° 31' N. 4° 20' W. at 1712/25 steering 345° at 10 Knots. (C. in C. W.A.2140/25 to KENYA.)

MOST SECRET.

2nd. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

LE TRIOMPHANT. Your 1524/23. Unable to sail owing to defect. (Capt. D. Greenock 1207/25. to C. in C. W.A.)

ODYSSEUS. N.C.S.O. Clyde 1945/24. Ashore at Kames by Rothesay since leaving Greenock. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1445/25.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Situation at 0900/25 (D.T.D. 1145/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

H.X. 98.

Date and route. Escort LACONIA returns Halifax (D.T.D. 1219/25).

O.B.C. 264.

Sailed 0600/25. Escort LADY MADELINE. 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1235/25).

S.C. 18.

Route and date. (D.T.D. 1317/25).

W.N. 59.

0700/25. 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1438/25).

O.B. 267.

Route. To remain in company to 25°W. (D.T.D. 1504/25).

H.X. 97.

Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D. 1623/25).

S.L. 58.

Splitting 0300/26. Escorting for Oban. SARDONYX for Clyde, ANEMONE for Liverpool, HELIOTROPE detached to escort PETER CAREY, LA MALOUINE not in company (BROKE, 2125/25).

H.X. 96.

Meet (C. in C. W.A. 2158/25 to ROCHESTER, WILD SWAN, FLEUR DE LYS, GARDENIA, VENOMOUS).

S.L. 59.

KENYA to R. V. and escort (C. in C. W.A. 1922/25) See Convoy and Raider Action.

O.B.C. 264.

Sailed 0005. Escorts ACTIVE, PICOTEE, HEATHER, ANTELOPE.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0020/25).
Sailed ANTELOPE to overtake
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0630/25.)

O.B. 264.

To keep clear of H.X. 95. Amended route for O.B. 264 from 270° Oversay 6 miles through 055° 50'N, 008° 00'W then route previously ordered.
(C. in C. W.A. 1104/25).

H.G. 48.

MACBRAE H.G. 48 arrived Barry Road. Escort ROSEMARY left for Milford Haven (N.O.I.C. Barry 0735/25).

W.N. 59.

0700/25, 10 ships, routed through Firth of Lorne.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1031/25).

/H.X. 95....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

H.X. 95. Am proceeding to intercept (WOLVERINE 1100/25). In view of favourable weather forecast and present speed 9 knots (proceed ? to) concur Stornaway can be reached without Tug. (WOLVERINE 2150/25).

F.S. 68. Reported at East Oaze 12 ships for London (N.C.S.O. Thames 115/25).

E.N. 47. Sailed 1830/26, 22 ships (13 oversees). Escorts PAYNTER, ARTIC EXPLORER, WOLFHOUND. Buchan Ness 1200/27. Duncansby Head 1100/28. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1445/25).

E.N. 46.
F.N. 67.
F.S. 70.
F.S. 71. 25/26. E.N. 46 Kinnaird Head 1500/25. Inchcolm to Moray Firth F.N. 67 20C buoy 2200/25 F.S. 70 C buoy 0300/26 F.S. 71 leave Methil 2300/25 (C. in C. Rosyth 1600/25).

S.L. 58. HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER sailed for S.L. 58. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1650/25).

S.L. 59. Request sail KENYA to R/V with and afford ocean escort to S.L. 59 (D.D.O.D. 1652/25 to C. in C. W.A.).

O.B. 266. Request arrange CRISPIN to sail with Clyde portion of O.B. 266 if practices completed. (C. in C. W.A. 2022/25 to F.O.C.N.P.).

W.N. (? 175) Intend S/M H. 34 be included sailing Clyde 30/12. Request she may be sailed in first F.S. Convoy for Southend after Methil and onward escort arranged from Southen to Sheerness. (Capt (S) 7th 1540/25 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

KENT. My 1846/21. Report your position at approximately 0500/22 and what W/T watch was being kept at the time. (C. in C. W.A. 1146/25 to KENT). KENT reporting position 050° 12 miles from Orlock Hill at 1621. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1651/25);

M.V's My 1208/25 add 1 M.V. Dartmouth, Plymouth 0200 1000 1 M.V. Falmouth westward 1559 blank. (C. in C. W.A. 1808/25).

/H.X. 97.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.12.1940. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

H.X. 97. / S.C. 16. — Position. REPULSE and NIGERIA to support (See Convoy and Raider under FOREIGN STATIONS-.

P.S. 69. — Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0201/25).

W.N. 58. — Rettesy Head 0115 (CAPE ARGONA 0130/25).

E.N. 47. / E.N. 60. — Sail at 0900/26. For exercises and Methil. Act subsequently as additional A/A escort to E.N. 47 sailing at 1830/26. On meeting transfer to W.N. 60 due Cape Wrath 0100/28 and Duncansby 1100/28.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1129/25 to WOLFHOUND).

H.X. 96. — Meet H.X. 96 30 ships unescorted 1000 27/12 101 60° 12'N. 15° 00' W 101° 8 knots then through 60° 00'N 15° 00'W. 58° 00'N 09° 30'W split in 56° 30'N 08° 40'W. Route K keeping North of QZX 229 (D) 56° 05'N 06° 38'W 56° 16'N 05° 43'W 56° 22'N 05° 39'W thence to anchorage in Lynn of Lorne North of Black Island.
(C. in C. W.A. 1758/25 to VENEMOUS, ROCHESTER, WILD SWAN, FLEUR DE LYS, GARDENIA).

Troop Convoys.

T.C.8. — Arrived Clyde PASTEUR, COLUMBIA and PENNLAND, H.M.S. OTTAWA, ST. LAURENT and BATH. MONTGOMERY proceeding Londonderry.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0015/25).

W.S. 5(B). — Following ships sailing in W.S. 5(B) are required to load personnel at ports shown, and will be ready to clear their present berths on dates indicated. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange sailing accordingly:-
DUCHESS OF BEDFORD Liverpool to Newport ready Dec. 29th.
HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN Liverpool to Clyde ready Dec. 27th.
WINDSOR CASTLE Liverpool to Avonmouth ready Dec. 27th.
WINCHESTER CASTLE Liverpool to Avonmouth ready Dec. 27th.
EMPRESS OF JAPAN Belfast to Clyde ready December 28th.
(D.O.D(H). 1539/25 to C. in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

BERWICK, Action with Raider 25.12.40.

H.M.S. BERWICK escorting Troop Convoy W.S.5(a) slow, came into action with a German 8-in. gun cruiser, (at first reported as a pocket battleship of DEUTSCHLAND class) on December 25 about 0030 B.S.T.
(Note) W.S.5A consisting of 11 troopships and 6 munition ships sailed from Clyde, Liverpool and Belfast on December 18. See W.D. 18-19/12/40. See D.O.R. 19/12/40 for list of vessels.

Enemy Report.

Following has been read.
EMERGENCY. 1 Capital ship (DEUTSCHLAND class)bearing 290 degs. 12 miles approx. course unknown my position 200 LARK 60 (BERWICK, 0642/25) (43° 40' N. 25° 50' W. see 1026/25).

Course.

My 0642. Enemy's cours 330 degs. (BERWICK, 0655/25).

8-inch Cruiser.

My 0642 Enemy is 8 inch cruiser. (BERWICK, 0715/25).

Enemy disappeared in thick weather to westward on course 290°. Probability is that he has not sighted convoy. Am rejoining convoy. Enemy ship was one eight inch cruiser. (BERWICK, 0825/25).

CLEMATIS. In action. Convoy scattered.

Engaged unknown raider in position 043° 47' 024° (corrupt group) BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN pursuing. EMPIRE TROOPER damaged believed slightly. Convoy scattered by order of Commodore. Proceeding along track arriving destination dawn 27th visibility one mile. T.O.O. B.S.T. (CLEMATIS, 0930/25).

FURIOUS

My position course speed 043° 15' North 024° 12' West 280° 21 knots. Will fly off 2 Skuas for search and will land Swordfish from ARGUS to arm with. Visibility 2 miles, low clouds. Wind 150° 35 knots. Request position of other British forces in area. (FURIOUS 0931/25 to Admty.)

Your 0931/25. No other British Forces other than those with W.S.5A are within 200 miles of your position. (D.O.D.(F) 1350/25 to FURIOUS)

BERWICK position.

BERWICK, BONAVENTURE, position course and speed 043° 27' N. 025° 30' West, 133 degrees, 20 knots. (BERWICK, 0945/25 to FURIOUS).

/ FORCE H. ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

BERWICK. Action with Raider 25.12.40.

Force H. Force H. Raise steam with all despatch. (D.C., 1012/25 to S.O. Force H).

Position "Lark". BERWICK's 0642. Position "LARK" is 43.40 N. 23.50 W. (D.C. 1026/25 to C. and A. Areas A and B.)

C.S.15. Force K. My 1026/25. Close enemy. (V.C.N.S. 1046/25 to C.S.15, S.O. Force K)

My 1046 NAIAD return to Scapa. (D.S.D.(H) 1733/25 to NAIAD).

Enemy sight convoy My 0825. BONAVENTURE report enemy cruiser sighted convoy. (BERWICK, 1056/25, to Admty. and Force H). (Note. Sent to V.A.S. also passed to Ships and Authorities A & B, Submarines on patrol, North Atlantic Station, C.in C. South Atlantic for S.A. Station, C.in C. America & West Indies, and C.in C. Mediterranean).

Force H ordered to sea. My 1026/25 and BERWICK's 0642/25. Proceed to sea. (V.C.N.S. 1056/25 to S.O. Force H).

BERWICK, casualties and damage. Regret to report following casualties (list, 4 marines killed, 1 dangerously wounded). (BERWICK, 1100/25). Following damage sustained by BERWICK. X turret out of action. Hit below water line 72 to 81 stations starboard side and starboard side of after engine room bulging and wing compartment 193 to 207 flooded. Shell through forward boiler room from above upper deck. 3 one 4 inch gun out of action. Mid-ship funnel up-take holed. (BERWICK, 1120Z/25).

Your 1120/25. Did you damage enemy? (D.S.D.(F) 1653/25 to BERWICK).

Enemy hits. Your 1655. One hit certain abaft funnel. Possibly more. (BERWICK, 1506/25, to Admty.)

Force H. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 8 Destroyers ready by 1345. (S.O. Force H, 1100/25 to Admty.)

/ Force H. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

BERWICK, Action with Raider 25.12.40.
(Contd.)

Force H.

Force H. proceeding high speed towards position 037° North 012° West.
Eight destroyers will be retained in company or follow according to weather.
(S.O. Force H, 1401/25 to Admty.)

Gibraltar Departure 1400/25 S.O. Force H in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FAULKNOR, FOXHOUND, FIREDRAKE, FORTUNE, DUNCAN, WISHART, HERO, HERMIONE, in accordance with Admiralty's 1038/25.
(S.O.I., Gib., 1448/25 to Admty., etc.)

Position of Convoy.

Are you in company with convoys. If so pass Admiralty's 1324 and 1403/25 to Cdre. of convoy and report position course and speed. (BERWICK, 1504/25, to FURIOUS, DUNEDIN).

Your 1394/25 and my 1401/25. Intend joining convoy. (S.O. Force H., 1514/25, to Admty.)

DUNEDIN, CITY OF CANTERBURY.

When rejoining convoy met CITY OF CANTERBURY who was proceeding to convoy rendezvous noon/26th 160 degs. "LARK" 290 miles. Convoy has scattered. Am taking her to position 041° N. 019° W. My position course and speed are 042° 30' N. 023 degs. 25' W., 115° nine knots. (DUNEDIN, 1531Z/25).

FURIOUS to rejoin convoy.

Discontinue hunt. Rejoin convoy.
(1 S.L. 1507/25, to FURIOUS)

Disposition of British Forces.

BERWICK's 0042/25. British Forces in this area at noon S.S.T./25 are as follows:-
(A) In company with BERWICK, BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN, ARGUS, FURIOUS, and convoy W.S.5A
(B) C.S.15 in MALAD 50° 50' N. 18° 40'W. course 220 degs., 20 knts.
(C) Force K to South Westward of Azores closing enemy.
(D) CACHALOT approximate 40°N. 19° W. for U.K.
(E) TRIDENT patrolling in vicinity of Azores.
(F) DERBYSHIRE patrolling within 100 miles of 38° 20' N. 21° 40' W.
(G) Force H left Gibraltar at 1345.
(H) CATHAY and S.L.59 approximate 35° 20' N. 20° 30' W. course 354° 9 kts.
(D.O.D. (F) 1619/25 to S. and A. in Areas A and D.)

Force K.

My 1046/25. Join BERWICK with Convoy W.S.5A. (D.O.D.(F) 1654/25 to F.O. Force K).

/ Force H. ....

MOST SECRET.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A. and Raider.

BERWICK. Action with Raider 25.12.1940. (Contd.)

Force H.
Force K.
"Excess"
W.S.5A.
Route.

My 1654/25 to F.O. Force K.
1. Force H is to rendezvous with BERWICK and escort W.S.5A until Force K joins the convoy.
2. Force K is then to escort W.S.5A to Freetown.
3. Force H with BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN and ARGUS are then to escort "EXCESS" to Gibraltar.
4. Operation "EXCESS" is to be postponed 24 hours by S.O. Force H if necessary.
5. BERWICK if fit for the passage, is then to return to U.K., if not she is to proceed to Gibraltar.
6. Route for W.S.5A after passing 37° N. 16° W. is through a position 31° N. 21° W. and thence through position 12° 45' N. 19° 30' W. and as routed in 0218/17. (D.O.D.(F) 1810/25 to F.O's Forces H and K)

Signals, Force K

Cancel my 1837/24. As from 0001 G.M.T./26 messages for S.O. Force K, Force K, FORMIDABLE NORFOLK, BONAVENTURE, FURIOUS, ARGUS, DUNEDIN, BERWICK, C.S.15. and NAIAD are to be routed in normal manner, ships maintaining normal W/T watch according to station in which they actually are. Reserve Block Delivery Groups are no longer to be used for these ships and/or authorities. (D.S.D.1830/25 to C.-in-C's and F.O's)

DORSETSHIRE to join Force K.

My 1819/25.
BERWICK reports X turret out of action during engagement with German 8" cruiser today 25/12.
My 2159/22, para. 2 is cancelled.
Request you will sail DORSETSHIRE as soon as practicable to join Force K.
(D.O.D.(F) 1820/25 to C.in C. S.A.).

KENYA.
S.L.59.

KENYA is to rendezvous with and escort S.L.59, which consists of 27 ships at present escorted by CATHAY.
S.L.59 and S.L.S. 59 due in position 053° 40' N. 013° 00' W. at 0900 G.M.T. 1st and 3rd Jan. 1941 routed through 056° 00' N. 020° 20' W. 050° 00', 022° 30', 032° 00' 020° 30', speed 6 and 7 knots.

Azores S/M.

TRIDENT left vicinity of Lands End 0200/19/12 to relieve CACHALOT on patrol near Azores.
Route for TRIDENT latitudes north and longitudes west 049° 30' 010° 00', 048° 45', 011° 30', 039° 45', 016° 50', 037° 20', 022° 25', thence to patrol.

/ CACHALOT to ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

BERWICK. Action with Raider 25.12.1940.
(Contd.)

CACHALOT to support W.S.5A.

Route for CACHALOT north and west of St. Miguel thence through following positions latitude north and longitude west 036° 25' 025° 25' 010° 20', 012° 00', 049° 10', 012° 55', diving by day north of 049° CACHALOT has orders to leave patrol by 24/12 and has orders to support convoy W.S.5A.
Information enemy 8-inch cruiser and W.S.5A was sent to you before sailing.
(C.in C. W.A. 1922/25 to F.O. 10 C.S.)

EMPIRE TROOPER, distress messages.

Following received via Landsend Radio in M.N.O.R. Any British Man of War from Z S K L (no trace in W.R.)
Any British Merchant Vessel 44° north 24° 32' west, require assistance as soon as possible to stand by me immediately. 1500 G.M.T.
Admiral Plymouth from Z S K L
EMPIRE TROOPER send assistance to ?, at once 43° 58'N. 20° 35' W "LARK" bearing 117 degs. 37 miles. 1715 G.M.T.
Any British Man of War from Z S K L
Any British M.V.
CYCLAMEN standing by, his wireless transmitter out of action. 1648 G.M.T.
Admiral Plymouth from Z S K L
EMPIRE TROOPER amend longitude to read 24° 15' W. my 1715 G.M.T. T.O.R. 1851.
(C.in C. W.A. 2142/25 to Admty.)

BONAVENTURE

My position 041° 57' N. 023° 16' W. Proceeding to assistance of EMPIRE TROOPER. (BONAVENTURE, 1939/25).

Ship believed to be EMPIRE TROOPER requiring immediate assistance position at 1751 G.M.T. 43° 58' N. 24° 15' W. She reported CYCLAMEN with W/T out of action standing by at 1648 G.M.T.
(C.in C. W.A., 2155/25 to BERWICK, BONAVENTURE, FURIOUS, ARGUS, DUNEDIN, CERANIUM, JOSEPH.

BERWICK, position.

Admiralty 1810 (not to BONAVENTURE)
My position noon 26/12 will be 039° 08' N. 021° 38' W. Am attempting to collect convoy who scattered on attack and were given this rendezvous by Commodore of convoy at 1940/24 since when it is improbable that the majority have received other orders.
(BERWICK, 2045Z/25 to S.O's Force H and K, F.O.C.N.A.)

/ VELOX, VIDETTE .....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

BERWICK. Action with Raider 25.12.40.

VELOX,
VIDETTE.

Admty. 1810/25. VELOX and VIDETTE sail as in (corrupt group) 1640/25.
If not required request you will order them to return to Gibraltar and inform me. (F.O.C.N.A. 2342/25 to S.O. Force H).

Situation of Convoy.

Information now available in Admiralty indicates that convoy has scattered.
Part of the convoy may be making for position 41° N. 19 W. ordered in my 1403/25. Another portion probably the larger may be making for position 180 dgs. "LARK" 290 miles, which is the convoy rendezvous ordered by Commodore for noon 26/12.
2. M.T. Ships for "EXCESS" may be proceeding direct to Gibraltar.
3. S.O. Force H is to take charge at the moment he considers appropriate.
4. Secret positions given to ships in convoy are:
43° 40' N. 23° 30' W. LARK.
34° 30' N. 26° 00' W. PANSY.
34° 30' N. 14° 30' W. ROBIN.
5. Position "LARK" has probably been compromised. (V.C.N.S. 2344/25 to S.O. Force H, BERWICK)

Summary of Escorts.

At about 0050 B.S.T. 25/12 BERWICK, BONAVENTURE & DUNEDIN escorting military convoy W.S.5A fought a short action with enemy 8" cruiser in position 43° 20' N. 24° 20' W.
BERWICK & BONAVENTURE engaged and drove off enemy to Westward. Enemy was hit once for certain abaft funnel and probably more. BERWICK had 'X' turret put out of action.
Enemy also caused some damage to EMPIRE TROOPER who is now in company with CYCLAMEN and BONAVENTURE.
(D.D.O.D.(H) 0130/25 to Ships and Authorities.)

BONAVENTURE, lost touch.

BERWICK's 0842. Have lost touch with enemy. Last seen at 0856Z in position 42.38 N., 25.12. W., steering 290°. Visibility poor. Am rejoining convoy. (BONAVENTURE, 1129/25 to Admty.)

W.S.5A position.

Position course and speed of W.S.5A, 0842/25, 044° 05' N. 025° 05' W. 103 deg., 11 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1130/25, to FORMIDABLE NORFOLK).

BERWICK's position.

BERWICK's 0842. Mean of D.R. of FURIOUS and ARGUS made position of BERWICK 043° 20' N. 024° 20' W. at 0842 G.M.T. at which time she was seen to open fire.

/ My position .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.12.1940. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

BERWICK. Action with Raider 25.12.1940. (Contd.)

BERWICK's position. (contd.) My position course and speed are 043° 20' N. 024° 50' W. 280° 18, ARGUS only now in company. Visibility half a mile. (FURIOUS, 1130Z/25, to Admty., etc.)

S/M CACHALOT to support convoy. BERWICK, escorting convoy W.S.5A Southbound, sighted hostile 8" cruiser 0700/25 in position 44° N. 25° W. Steer to support convoy having regard to state of fuel. Enemy U Boats probably in vicinity of convoy. (V.A.S. 1138/25 to CACHALOT).

NAIAD position. Your 1044/25. NAIAD's position at 1200 B.S.T. 060° 50' North 018° 40' W. 220 degrees, 20 knots. Fuel remaining for 1500 miles at 20 knots. (F.O. 15 C.S. 1205/25 to Admty.)

There are indications of further U/B's on convoy route to eastward of Azores. (D.D.I.C. 1200/25 to BERWICK, BONAVENTURE, DUNEDIN, FURIOUS, ARGUS).

FURIOUS, ARGUS, position. My position course and speed are 043° 19' 30" N., 025° 11' W. 290° 18. Am flying off reconnaissance now. ARGUS only in company. Intend to continue hunt. (FURIOUS, 1224/25, to BERWICK, BONAVENTURE, Force K, and Admty.)

Enemy Transmission. Enemy unit transmitting on 19780 k/cs at 1214 B.S.T. probably unit reported in your 0342/25. (D.D.I.C. 1300/25 to BERWICK).

REPULSE and NIGERIA to support H.X.97 S.C.16. BERWICK's 0342/25, 0650/25, and 0715/25 and Admiralty's 1026/25. Convoy H.X.97 and S.C.16 position course and speed at 0900/25 were 053° 40' North 037° 50' West 044 degrees, 8 knots, and 053° 00' North 027° 00' West, 070 degrees, 6½ knots respectively.
REPULSE with NIGERIA screened by four destroyers is to proceed to give protection to both convoys.
Destroyers are to part company in 025° West and return to Scapa.
(C.in C. H.F., 1502/25 to REPULSE, H.A. (D) H.F.).

4 / Convoy to steer for Gibraltar. ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

BERWICK. Action with Raider 25.12.

Convoy to steer for Gibraltar.

Convoy and escorts steer for Gibraltar. Further signal follows.
(D.O.D.(F) 1324/25 to BERWICK).

By 1324/25. Adjust route of W.S.5A to pass through position 41°N., 19° W. and position 37° N. 16° W.
(V.C.N.S. 1403/25 to BERWICK).

FURIOUS, flying abandoned.

Your 1350. Have had to abandon flying operations owing to weather. Have 2 swordfish from ARGUS on board. My course and speed are 043° 10' 025° 11', 115 degs, 17, to rejoin convoy.
(FURIOUS, 1345/25 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Operation "Ration".

Your 1849/24 (corrupt group) Force 'H' is at sea. No forces available. (F.O.C.N.A. 1346/25 to Admty).

Foreign Legion Movement

N.C.S.O. Duala 1616/24. I am remaining anchored off Base my self with CAP DER PALMES in company. TOUAREG expected p.m. 26/12 when convoy will sail. Intend (route). I understand engine defect will place CAPO OLNO out of action about a month.
(DELHI, 1841/25 to C. in C. S.A.

North Atlantic.

VINDICTIVE, ISIS, NORFOLK, FORMIDABLE, NORFOLK.

Departure 1000/25 VINDICTIVE, ISIS, ENCOUNTER to rendezvous with FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK in position 015° 00'N. 027° 00'W at 0900 zone + 1 30/12 thence to Freetown. Route.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1000/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

M.S.5A.

My 1330/24 HERO, HEREWARD, FIREDRAKE will be detached by S.O. Force H. and VELOX, VIDDETTE will be sailed from Gibraltar to make rendezvous. FIREDRAKE to be detached and ordered to Gibraltar immediately after passing Europa Point. Pass through position 036° 00'N 010° 00'W on passage to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1642/25 to ARGUS).

Daily Summary operations.

1 routine Patrol. 1 presumably friendly French aircraft approached Rock in poor visibility at low altitude. Was shot at until approaches to aerodrome to land. For violation of Spanish territory was shot down into sea by Spanish. No trace.
(200 Group, 1700/25 to Air Min).

A/C Shot Down.

Situation Report. At 1500 hours 25/12 Potez or Bloch type aircraft flying over Gibraltar without previous notice was shot at by our own and Spanish A.A. Guns and crashed into sea approx. quarter mile east of neutral ground. A boat was sent out but no sign of survivors.
(Governor Gib. 2050/25 to W.O.).

/TRIUMPH.....

MOST SECRET.

25.12.40.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (continued).

TRIUMPH. Your 1720/24 (concerning TRIUMPH's proceeding to Malta) Yes. 1858/25 D.O.D. (P).

KINGSTON JACINTH
KINGSTON TURQUOISE
KINGSTON TOPAZ
SCOTTISH. Intend sailing KINGSTON JACINTH KINGSTON TURQUOISE to U.K. in H.G. 49 29/12 and KINGSTON TOPAZ either to overtake H.G. 49 or in H.G. 50 11/1/41. Intend that Commander Brooks of KINGSTON JACINTH should exchange appointment with Lieutenant Commander Ayre of SCOTTISH in view of former's particular experience. (P.O.C.N.A. 1902/25 to P.O.C.N.P.).

South Atlantic.

QUEEN ADELAIDE. Overdue shipping my 0945/21 QUEEN ADELAIDE arrived Capetown. (S.O.(1) Capetown 1035/25).

LLANDAFF.
HOPECROWN.
JCAYBANK. Overdue shipping LLANDAFF HOPECROWN due Capetown 20/12 JCAYBANK due Capetown 21/12 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(1) Capetown 1105/25).

CORNWALL.
DEVONSHIRE. CORNWALL to complete with fuel at Durban then proceed Simonstown. DEVONSHIRE after arrival Simonstown remain there until further orders. (C. in C. S.A. 1345n/25 to CORNWALL DEVONSHIRE).

CHARLES PRATT. Overdue shipping. Panamanian CHARLES PRATT Aruba departure 6/12 due Freetown 21/12 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown 1804/25) (Cancelled see 1747/26 U-Boat Campaign).

SANNANGER. Overdue shipping. SANNANGER Oban departure 27/11 due 21/12. 1806/25.

DORSETSHIRE.
NEPTUNE. DORSETSHIRE to return to Freetown with all despatch to arrive 0600/27. NEPTUNE return Freetown as convenient. 2253R/25.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

M. Class Destroyers.

I am most concerned at decision communicated in Admty. 1528/23 (see under Policy Home Commands). I am well aware of difficulties of situation in home waters in respect to destroyers and I have hitherto refrained from representing situation in Mediterranean in knowledge that reinforcements would reach me early in New Year and I hoped they would alleviate a situation which may shortly become critical. It does not seem to be realized destroyers commitments in Mediterranean have multiplied since entry of Greece into war. The troops in Libya necessitate a division being allocated to nothing else but maintenance and defence line supply. This commitment is likely to increase. Mounting machinery defects, and they spend too little time in harbour for these to be made good or even routine maintenance to be undertaken. The fact that apart from destroyers out of action due to machinery breakdown on (corrupt groups), it has not been possible to spare a destroyer to undergo refit since 11/8/40, speaks for itself. In light of these facts I earnestly hope decision communicated in Admty. 1538/23 may be reconsidered. (C. in C. Med 1105z/25 to Admty).

Air Report.

Tobruk.

Sollum.

Operational Summary No. 198 up to 1200 hrs. 25/12. Egypt. Night 23/24 Dec. Reconnaissances of Bardia and Tobruk by Hurricane and Lysander reported no movements. 20 S.79's escorted by 4 CR.42's bombed Sollum hitting jetty and one lighter. Total of 40 army personnel killed and injured. No change in military situation Bardia. Greece. Day 24/12. 7 Blenheims attacked Valona aerodrome from 1800 feet Bombs burst among dispersed aircraft and aerodrome buildings causing clouds of black smoke from latter. After dropping bombs Blenheims machine gunned aerodrome and a cruiser in the harbour latter particularly heavily. All aircraft returned safely.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1143/25 to Air Min).

Valona.

Cruiser attacked.

/M.S.S.A.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

W.S. 5A.

Your 1343/23. (a) Personnel for Malta. (details) CLAN MACDONALD CLAN CUMMING EMPIRE SONG NORTHERN PRINCE
(b) Confirmed, except for Naval personnel referred to in Admiralty 2125/21. (c) Confirmed.
(d) Confirmed. NORTHERN PRINCE also has 10 tons of ammunition for Suda Bay.
(e) With the exception of deck cargo of cased aircraft all four ships are loaded for first discharge in Greece.
(D.O.D.(F) 1315/25 to C. in C. Med).

From Admiral Sakellarion (Christmas Greetings).
(N.A. Athens 1332/25 to Admty).

Malta Air Report.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 25/12. All times G.M.T. No air operations undertaken. Clouds 10/10 1,500 feet and rain. No enemy activity over Malta today. No naval or military items.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 1700/25 to Air Min).

REGENT R. of P.

REGENT preliminary report. Nothing sighted in area G. 21 to 23/12. Sighted four convoys escorted by T.B.D. in area between 014 degs. East and 015 degs. East south of 033 degs. North. All ships empty. Keeping 15 to 20 miles north of coast and steering west. Indications are that RORQUAL's minefields are being avoided. Three unsuccessful long range attacks. Anti-submarine measures taken after last attack.
(V.A. Malta 1917/25 to C. in C. Med).

East Indies.

MOONSTONE.

Bombay arrival 0430Z/25 Trawler MOONSTONE.
(S.O. (I) Bombay 0431/25).

Small craft Kenya.

Your 2037/26/9 paragraph 3 (i) 3 motor boats taken up for Kenya Coastal Patrol. Fourth is available for South Africa for purchase at 2500 pounds which is considered fair and reasonable. Intend to complete purchase and base this boat on Dar-es-Salaam. Governor Tanganyika concurs in principle and can probably provide crew. (ii. My 1854/13/3. Can decision now be given whether maintenance cost of this patrol is an Imperial or Colonial Government liability. (C. in C. E.I. 0604Z/25 to Adty

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (continued).

W.S. 4B. — Departure 25/12 0700z CARLISLE and KIMBERLEY 0745z SOUTHAMPTON all to join W.S. 4B. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0746/25).

Kishmayu. — My 1006/23. Air photographs show there are indications that one ship has been considerably damaged between funnel and bridge on starboard side above water line but with no signs of listing. As description of damaged ship does not appear to correspond with YAMAYURI MARU it is not certain which the ship is. There has been considerable movement within anchorage since 6/12. Small lighters are shown astern several ships. (C. in C. E.I. 10002/25 to Admty).

KANIMBLA. — N.O.i/c Mauritius 0728/23 On completion of fuelling KANIMBLA to proceed Durban, adjusting speed to arrive p.m. 31/12. (C. in C. E.I. 10042/25).

Kenya Air Report. — Operational Summary No. 198 to 1200 hours 25/12. Para 4 Kenya. Day 24/12. S.A.A.F. reconnoitred Furroly and Gorai. Bombs dropped at Gorai on fort and camouflaged area believed petrol dump. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1146/25 to Air Min).

B.N.11 — Convoy B.N. 11 arrived Suez 25/12 less Panamanian ship URANIA and GREY COUNTY (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1032/25).

B.S. 11½ — Sailing telegram 1500 G.M.T. /25. Escort KINGSTON. Ships ORION, BATORY, SUFFOLK, STRATHEDEN, STRATHMORE, (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 16072/25).

Air Report Sudan. — A. 886 25/12 Ops Summary No. 198 up to 1200 hours 25/12. Para 3. Sudan. Reconnaissance of Dahlak Archipelago by 2 Blenheims reported 2 merchantships moored off north point Dahlak Island and landing ground on south point Naheleg Island. Small enemy supply ship between Naheleg and Norah Island unsuccessfull bombed. All aircraft returned safely from operations 24/12. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1147/25 to Air Min.).

/Somali.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (continued).

Somali Coast Recco.

A.B.V. SAGITTA has completed a reconnaissance of Somali Coast form Bandar Kassim to Heis, in connection with Military Mission G (R). At Heis dhows were found also some stores on beach. A few rounds were fired at stores and house close by. Two naval casualties from machine gun fired at 1500 yards not serious.
(C. in C. E.I. 1440/25 to Admty).

Air Report Aden.

Daily Intelligence Summary Number 196 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 25/12. 4 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided Fighter Escorts 3 for convoy BS 11 and 1 for convoy WS4B. 2 Blenheims 203 Squadron proceeded Kamaran for convoy duties. 5 Gladiators standing fighter patrol over Aden 0350 to 0750 G.M.T. No casualties.
(A.H.Q. Aden 1607/25 to Air Min).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Reference 1927/18A. Following are replies to para's indicated.
(C. in C. E.I. 0958Z/25 to Admty).

America & West Indies.

H.X. Convoy and SEVERN.

Admty 1752/20. Intend SEVERN shall be lent Seaborne for period she is based on Halifax as from date of arrival. She will have full outfit of torpedoes and will carry as much spare gear as practicable. Not intended to send any further spare personnel, torpedoes or gear for the present.
(V.A.S. 0014/25 to F.O.C. 35d B.S.).

BAYANO.

My 1445/20 Sailing delayed on account of fruit loading difficulties. BAYANO sailed 23/12.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1101/25).

/COLUMBIA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

COLUMBIA.
ST. FRANCIS.

Halifax arrival 25/12 COLUMBIA.
1215/25.

VOLTAIRE.

If junction has not been made B.H.X. 98 is to conform to movements of H.X. 98 which has been ordered to turn round and may be directed to proceed to wait at Halifax or Concepcion Bay Newfoundland.
(C. in C. A. & W.I. 1632/25 to VOLTAIRE).

Canadian Destroyers.

Your 1257/24. Am deeply grateful.
A. Most acceptable Xmas gift.
(1st Sea Lord 2225/25 to C.N.S. Canada).

Australia & New Zealand.

Nauru, raider attack.

My 18352/24 Hopkins considers NAURU in imminent danger of attack and NAURU W/T operator disloyal. Raiders used big lagoon Marshall Island for transferring fuel, guesses base in Ellice Islands. Reasons for these assumptions by Hopkins are being ascertained. Three raiders in close company spread to maximum visibility in day time and close in at night.
(A.C.N.B. 1241/25 to Admty).

Raider Nauru, Publicity.

My 18352/24 propose publicity release of rescue story on following lines.
(d)(Text of proposed statement).
(A.C.N.B. 1243Z/25 to Admty).

Your 1835/24. Details of raiders and their cruises are urgently required. Request arrangements may be made for early interrogation of survivors by a naval officer.
(D.D.I.C. 1822/25 to A.C.N.B.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LA PLATA.
HEINRICH ARP.

German ships LA PLATA and HEINRICH ARP left Bilbao for unknown destination at approximately noon 24/12.
(D.D.I.C. 0821/25 to F.O.C.N.A).
(V.A.S. 1223/25).

MOST SECRET.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

EVERLEIGH. (British 5222 tons) 58° 36' N., 21° 58'W. gunned by S/M course N. 1212/25 (Valentia Radio 1214/25).
SSSS 58° 47'N. 21° 08' W. chased by S/M. (Portishead Radio 1305/25).
58° 27'N. 21° 00' W. still chased and gunned by S/M 1430/25. (Valentia Radio 1435/25).
Following read SSSS 59° 20' N, 21° 20' W. Still chased by S/M (Wick Radio 1550/25).
Following read SSSS 59° 36'N., 21° 58 W. gunned by S/M 1212/25 (Plymouth W/T recd. 1319/25).
Your 1118/25, your 1900/21 received and (corrupt group) has left convoy returning to Halifax through possible position of EVERLEIGH. (RANPURA 1820/25 to C.in C. W.A.)

ARACATARA (torpedoed 22/11). Following from St. John New Brunswick (begins) s.s. French DJURDJURA arrived with 15 survivors British ARACATARA torpedoed 22/11 in 057° 08'N. 020° 50'W. Reported lost and survivors have not had an opportunity of informing relative until now. Capt's boat was only one saved. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1359/25 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

Enemy Unit. By D/F on 7920 k/cs at 1027 B.S.T. German U-Boat in vicinity of convoy W.S.5A. (D.D.I.C. 1116/25)

My 1116/25. This was possibly a surface unit. (D.D.I.C. 1841/25).

1027. D/F. German U-boat near W.S.5A. (C.in C. W.A. 1116/25).

1240. AQUAMARINE reported S/M in 032° 27' N, 015° 21'W. (A.C.O.S. 1407/25).

1208. Indications of further U/B's on convoy route to eastward of Azores (D.D.I.C. 1208/25) (See also Convoy and Raider).

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.

Italian.
1 in Madeira area
1 in Canaries area.
2 near or to eastward of the Azores.
1 arriving Gironde this afternoon from south-southwesterly direction.
1 about 45° 20'N. 5° - 6° W. bound for Gironde.
4 between southern part of N.W. Approaches and Bordeaux.

/ German. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.12.1940.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U Boat dispositions. (Contd.)

German.
1 to south westward of Freetown.
1 in vicinity of 43°N. 25° W.
1 about 48° N., 8° W. bound for Lorient.
1 between 57° N. and 59° N. 17° W. and 20° W.
3 in area 57° N. to 60° N. near 20° W.
1 N.E. of Muckle Flugga homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1325/25).

MOST SECRET.

26. 12. 40.
Thursday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

M. A/S. B's.
Proposed
Allotment.

Admiralty 1753/8. M A/S BS 60 and 52 will be ready for service in one week. Intend allotting both boats to Fowey as operational base. Remainder of 4th M A/S B Flotilla completes hull strengthening end January. Four more boats will then be allotted to Fowey and three to Portland with senior officer of Flotilla at Portland. M A/S BS 60 and 52 can then be taken in hand for Hull strengthening. (R.A.C.F. 1013/26 to Adty.)

DELHOE.

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/26 (D.C.1130/26.) At 2330/26 (D.C. 0002/27.)

Movements.

AURORA. E.T.A. Scapa 1900/26. (E.O.I.C. Oban 0600/26) Arrived Scapa 1956/26.(A.C.O.S. 2045/26.)

KELLY. Arrived Scapa 0727. (A.C.O.S. 0820/26.)

KELVIN. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0908/26. Sailed to rejoin KENT. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1352/26.)

MITCH. My 1359/25. Sailed. E.T.A. Liverpool 1900 (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1103/26.)

VENOMOUS. Your 0852/26. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1110/26.)

LEAMINGTON)
CHURCHILL) Ordered to R/V with WOLFE and CILICIA at 0900/28 for inward Escort to Minches. Thence to Scapa. (F.O.C.H.F. 1118/26 to WOLFE.)

BIRMINGHAM. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1120/26.)

4 M/V's. Intend sail 4 M/V's escorted by A/S Trawlers LORD [illegible] and RUBY from Needles at 1715/26. E.T.A. Dartmouth 0615/27. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1227/26) =

MOST SECRET.

26. 12. 40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Movements.

COTSWOLD — Arrived 1256. (P.O.I.C. Harwich 1302/26.)

VANSITTART. — Sailed 1000 E.T.A. 0930/27. (P.O.I.C. Liverpool 1347/26 and 1556/26.) Arrive Rane Head at 1030/27.(C. in C. W.A.1754/26 to VANSITTART.)

LETITIA. — Arrived and sailed for Patrol 1630 G.M.T. (P.O. Iceland 1425/26.)

CILICIA. — Arrived 1300 G.M.T. (P.O. Iceland 1425/26.)

HOMMINGSVAAG. — Returned to Reykjavik. (P.O. Iceland 1425/26

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines today. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1536/26.)

KENT. / KIPLING / KELVIN. — Proceed to Milford Haven forthwith. KIPLING to proceed with all despatch and complete with fuel. (C. in C. W.A. 1554/26 to KENT, KIPLING, KELVIN.)

ROXBOROUGH. / RIPLEY. — Sailed. E.T.A. Rane Head 1630/27. (P.O.I.C. Belfast 1600/26.)

QUORN. / HOLDERNESS. — Sailed 1657. (P.O.I.C. Harwich 1707/26.)

DOUGLAS. / KEPPEL. — Arrived Scapa 1644. (A.C.O.S. 1740/26.)

MAURITIUS. — Your 1205/26. E.T.A. Duncansby Head 0930/28. (MAURITIUS 1948/26 to R.A.D.H.P.)

VERSATILE. — Your 2053. Lights arranged. Do not arrive More Light Vessel before 1430. (C. in C. Nore 2205/26 to VERSATILE.)

NIGERIA. — R/V with MANCHESTER at 1200/28 in 63° 50' N. 24° 40' W. If not met by 1300 proceed to Reykjavik and fuel. (P.O.C. 18th.C.S. 2256/26 to NIGERIA.)

MANCHESTER. — Sailed from Scapa (A.C.O.S. 2336/26.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 26. 12. 40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.
Particulars.(A.C.N.S. H. 1056/26). See Operations Volume.

Ostend to Hook.	Weather permitting M.T.B's to operate tonight as in my 1128/24. (C. in C. Nore 1126/26.)
Operation E.V.1.	To be carried out tonight between 2200 and 0200 by one A/C carrying Flares only. Patrol O to keep to Northward of No. 5 Buoy during this period.(C. in C. Nore 1234/26.) My 1234. Three M.Ls will leave Yarmouth at 1600 to-day arriving 5 miles East of No. 5. buoy at 1800. M.Ls. will patrol 5 miles East of Q.Z.S. 30 between latitudes of Aldeburgh Light Float and No. 5. buoy and will show minor war vessels recognition signals if in touch with enemy in vicinity of friendly warships or convoy.(C. in C. Nore 1240/26 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)
Operation M.C.	M.T.B's 69 and 70 with Trawlers ALEXANDRITE and BOTANIC will operate from 2100/26 till 0045/27 between No. 1 Buoy and (?) Buoy on anti-minelaying Operation MC. (V.A. Dover 1730/26 to Adty.)
Raider Patrol in Denmark Strait.	Admiralty 0130/26. Enemy Cruiser may attempt to return to Germany. Movements of enemy A/C indicate that passage may be made through Denmark Strait. 2. Patrol Lines in Denmark Strait are occupied as follows:- N.P. 41. LETITIA. N.P.42 CHITRAL. 3. C.S.18 in MANCHESTER and NIGERIA are to proceed to R/V as ordered by C.S.18 and then to operate in support of LETITIA and CHITRAL with the object of intercepting the enemy should he attempt the passage of the Denmark Strait. 4. Fuel is available from the Oiler ROSEWOOD at Reykjavik. 5. My 1203/25 and Admiralty 1533/25 have been passed to C.S.18.(C. in C. H.F. 2017/26. to C.S. 18.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

L. 26. Exercising from 1130 to 1430 with Rosyth Escort Force in Areas E and F to Northward of 56° 10' N. (C.in C. Rosyth 0022/26).

L. 23. In Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1157/26).

Greenock Area. Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1610/26).

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/27. (V.A.S. 1722/26).

TUNA. To return to Base after dark 28/12. Route to meet Escort 270° Trevose Head 5 miles at 0945/1. (S.2. 1821/26 to TUNA).

TALISMAN } **TIGRIS** } TALISMAN estimated off Wolf Rock 1100/28. Route thence for Bay of Biscay South Zone. TIGRIS keep in Eastern Sector from 2359/28 until 0600/31. (S.2. 1823/26). Sailed TALISMAN escorted by SURPRISE as by S.2 1230/24 and 1523/26. (F.O. Greenock 1903/26).

MINERVE. Sailed 1620/26 with STELLA POLARIS. N.T.A. Holy Lock 1500/28 (C.in C. W.A. 2102/26).

CACHALOT. Due Wolf Rock 0857/30. (CACHALOT 2331/26)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Special Patrols for today (1) Sunderland to leave Sullom Voe. 0800 to 64° 35' N. 15° W. and return. (2) Hudson leave Wick at dawn to make one circuit of area 60° 30' N. 2° W. to 61° 40' N. 6° 30' W., to 62° 15' N. 6° 30' W. to 61° 5' N. 2° W. (C.in C. Rosyth 0156/26.).
2 Blenheims leave Dyce 0845 for Flamborough and return. (C.in C. Rosyth 0722/26).
Patrols ordered today: BERT, TROT, STAB., S.9., SA.1A., SA.2., and S.A.3, in addition to MUGGY and those in my 0156/26 (C.in C. Rosyth 0722/26).

HOME COMMANDS.

26. 12. 40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

Patrols.

HOME COMMANDS.
British Air Activity.
Patrol VIKING will not be flown today as area is covered by 8A.1A.(C. in C. Rosyth 1128/26.)

Following Patrol UNST will be flown daily before Noon by Walrus A/C from Sullom Voe: 60° 50' N. 1° 17' W.,62° 3'N.1° 49'W.,61° 58' N.2° 9'W 60° 54'N. 0° 46'W. C. in C. Rosyth 1756/26.)

Search for Unidentified Ship.

Sunderlands on Patrol MUGGY and on Shetlands to 64° 35'N. Patrols are being diverted to position of Ship reported in NORTHERN GIFT 0740/26. C. in C. Rosyth 1218/26 to F.O. 1st. B.C.S.)
2 Sunderlands leave Sullom Voe. about 0930/27 to carry out parallel Track, Search of area between 65° 40' N, 64° N., 3° W., and 4° W to search for Ship. C. in C. Rosyth 1826/26.)

Bordeaux

217 Sqdn., to attack tonight S/M's in No. 1. Basin at Bordeaux. Alternative Target, Power Station and Dockyard at Brest. (H. .C.C.1245/26 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Lorient.

83 and 89 Sqdns., to attack tonight S/M's and Naval Dockyards at Lorient (H.Q.C.C. 1246/26 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Faroe Islands.

Enemy A/C flew low across Streams. AM/24 and fired on villagers at Hoyvik with cannon. One civilian slightly wounded. (O.C. Troops, Faroe Islands 1340/26 to War Office.)

Mining.

Operation.
O. .2.

My 1348/4 and 1836/23. Operation will be carried out on night of 29/12. (C. in C. W.A. 1134/26 to ADVENTURE.)

Liverpool.

Precautions for Ships arriving.(C. in C. W.A. 1236/26.) (C. in C. W.A. 1701/26, to KENT.

NORTH AMERICA.

26. 12. 40.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Clearance of Minefield.

Approximately three quarters of the minefield south of Coninbeg light vessel has now been cleared. 50 mines cut and 11 exploded to date. Anticipated 18 hours sweeping should complete clearance and subsequent high percentage searches. (H/S. 11. 1420/26 to Adty.)

HARRIER.

(Paddle Minesweeper) Sunk by own Mine at 2115/25.
See Casualties.

Aberdeen Area.
War Channel,
Searches.

Weather permitting:-
Intend sailing 12th M/S Group. Search War Channel N. side to Scurdy Ness 090° 10', H.T.A. 0359/26, then return searching ahead of S M 47 as far as Buchan Ness 090° 6'. H.T.A. 0809/27. 13th M/S Group R/V Buchan Ness 090° 6' 0700/27. Search ahead of S M 47 as far as Kinnaird Head 000° 6' thence 000° 6' to lat. 57°35' N. H.T.A. 1400/27/12, then return searching ahead of W M 50 as far as Buchan Ness 090° 6' H.T.A. 2300/27/12.
(H.O.IC. Aberdeen 1533/26 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Plymouth.

Since my 1951/26. One Mine detonated at 1130/25 in 225° Rame Head 4 miles, close to H.A/S.M. 8C.(C. in C. W.A. 1641/26.)

H.A.C.S.
HMS Attendant
Sunk.

Was ordered to proceed at 0900/26 via Swept channels speed 10 knots with the Admiralty Salvage Officer on board to the wreck of s.s STAAT HAARLEMMERMEER.
She was last seen by M/S trawler STELLA RIGEL proceeding from the Rough buoy to South Shipwash buoy. One heavy under water explosion was reported by two A/S vessels at 1800 in the vicinity of the N E Gunfleet.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1659/26 to C. in C. Nore. Regret considered lost with all hands. 2 Officers including Salvage Officer and 7 Ratings lost. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1156/27 to C. in C. Nore.)

NETHERLAND.

(Dutch, 400 Tons.) Sunk by Mine at about 1830/25 in about 55° 37' N. 5° 55' W. No casualties. Mine probably acoustic. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1700/26.)

[redacted]

[redacted]
AMERICAN.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Minfos.

Operation H.Q. — See Operations.

Londonderry Area. — Operation completed. (6th M/S Flotilla 1901/26 to Adty.)

LADY [redacted]. — (British, 8234 Tons) Explosion 10 miles N.W. of Barra. Requires immediate help. (Seaforth Radio 2349/26.) Damaged by Mine at 0048/27 in 55° 57' 15" N. 8° 45' 15" W. No casualties. Ship being docked Ail/28. (M.O.I.C. Liverpool 1806/27)

[redacted]. — Enemy Intelligence.
Pos 60° 30' N. 10° 10' W. steering 050° at 10 knots. ([redacted] 0747/26 to C.O. Trawlers N.F.)

O.204 on [redacted] Patrol diverted to search at 1300 hours in 60° 20' N. 10° 40' W. reports nothing seen except one vessel carrying all lights at 1735 in 60° 50' N. 5° 30' W. steering South at 10 knots (Pitreavie 2010/26 to Adty.)

Enemy Unit. — Position of probable Surface Craft at 1240/26 was 62° N. 3° E. D/F unreliable fix. (M.D.I.C. 1550/26 to C. in C. Nore. At 1640/26 position was 62° 60'N. 3° 20' E. D/F unreliable fix. (M.D.I.C. 1715/26 to C. in C. Nore.)

E. Coast. — There are sure indications of E-Boat activity in Southern North Sea tonight. (C. in C. Nore 2021/26.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26. 12. 40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

TENACITY. (Rescue Tug) Disabled by defect in steering-gear. Repairs in hand here. (N.O.N.T. Campbeltown 1801/26.)

MERCURY. (Paddle Minesweeper) S.C. 11th.M/S. Flotilla reports MERCURY sunk at 2115 after damage by own Mine. No casualties (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0905/26 to Admty.) Board of Inquiry being held; but appears MERCURY damaged by Mine in sweep at 1730, was taken in tow, and sank later.. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1502/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

[illegible] 1614/26. Delayed by defects. Probably sailing 28/12. (C. in C. W.A. 1450/26 to C. in C. Nore.)

PELICAN. Collided with Trawler CAPE PORTLAND at 0054/26 near Newarp Light Vessel. Stem turned and fore-peak flooded, but consider can continue present Convoy duties. (PELICAN 1826/26 to Admty.)

TRUE ACCORD. (H.M.Drifter.) Lost in collision with H.M. Trawler SARONTO. All crew safe. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth. Rood. 0991/26.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.	Positions (D.T.D. 1312/26 to C. in C. H.F.).
S.L. 58.	Not met. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 1130. (LA MALOUINE, 0650/26 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry) Arrived less 3 ships (names) (N.C.S.O. Oban 1731/26).
O.B.M. 266.	1640/27. ROSEMARY. 5. (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 0915/26).
H.X. 95 B.	Anchoring Moelfre Bay today, entering harbour 0900/27. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0940/26).
F.S. 70.	11 ships, 2 additional from Middlesbrough (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0943/26).
F.N. 66.	All Tyne ships arrived except STAAD MAASTRECHT (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0944/26).
O.G. 48.	1230 on 29/12. Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1025/26).
W.N. 60.	0920/26. BLACKFLY and BERKSHIRE. 4 ships (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1053/26, 1055/26
F.N. 68.	Postponed 24 hours, fog. VANITY and WESTMINSTER return to Sheerness if visibility permits (C. in C. Nore 1058/26).
H.X. 98.	Proceed with H.X. 98 to Sydney C.B. and await further orders.
S.C. 17.	Keep well clear of S.C. 17 which sailed Halifax 1100 A.S.T/23 (route). (D.T.D. 1129/26 to LACONIA).
S.C. 16.	Route from R.V. (D.T.D. 1215/26 to C. in C. W.A.).
O.B. 264.	Sailed 1300 approx. /24. 2 ships, 10 knots. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1301/26 1302/26).
F.N. 67.	Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 1313/26).
E.N. 68.	My 1217/20. E.N. 68 postponed 24 hours. F.N. 69 cancelled. Escort for E.N. 68 PELICAN and FOWEY. (C. in C. Rosyth 1313/28).

/O.B. 267.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys. (contd).

O.B. 267.	1300 on 30/12. Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1359/26 to Admty).
S.C. 17.	Your 1256/26. My 1403/23. R.V. date is 5/1 (C.O.A.C. Halifax to Admty 1451/26).
O.B. 20.	Sailed 1500 6 M.V's and French ship CONGRE. Request you arrange for air protection from daylight 27/12 and bombing of gun positions tonight. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1553/26 to C. in C. Nore).
H.N. 61.	Code "Rusty" 2100/28. Trawlers RUMBA, SALTARELLO 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1701/26).
H.N. 47.	1830/26 PAYNTER, ARCTIC EXPLORER, additional escort WOLFHOUND 31 ships 1 ship for Clyde (N.C.S.O. Methil 2014/26, 2016/26).
O.B. 264.	Sailed HEATHER to overtake O.B. 264. (F. O.I.C. Greenock 0545/26).
H.X. 96.	My 1750/25 H.X. 96. 24 hours early. Join by 1300/26 convoy has been instructed to steer through 60° 00'N 15° 00'W if not met at R/V. (C. in C. W.A. 0852/26 to ROCHESTER, WILD SWAN, VENEMOUS, FLEUR DE LYS, GARDENIA). Commdre H.X. 96 did not receive my 1758/25. Nog has been ordered to pass through 58° 00'N, 9° 30'W and 56° 30'W 8° 40'W estimate convoy will pass through first position 1300/27. (C. in C. W.A. 1911/26 to ROCHESTER). Not met. My position course and speed 060° 33'W 281° 12 knots (ROCHESTER 1601/25 to C. in C. W.A.).
O.B.O. 265.	0400/27 escort VISCOUNT, 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1548/26).
F.N. 68. F.S.72. F.N. 70. F.S.73.	Additional escort for F.N. 68, F.S. 72 GUILLEMOT, F.N. 70 F.S. 73 SNAPDRAGON (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1550/26 to GUILLEMOT).
O.B. 266.	My 1626/22. For O.B. 268 read O.B. 266 (C. in C. W.A. 1730/26).

/O.B. 265....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

O.B. 265. Sailed VANQUISHER, WHITEHALL, RHODODENDRON escort for O.B. 265 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1830/26). Sailed GENTIAN to overtake O.B. 265. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2048/26).

C.E. 20. Portsmouth to Southend (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1637/26).

E.N. 47. My 1604/26 BEN-MY-CHREE, VIMY e.t.a. Aberdeen 0900/27 12th M/S Group sailed. Aberdeen 1730/26 then to Scurdy Ness E.t.a. midnight then ahead E.N. 47 to Buchanness where 19th M/S Group relieves. (C. in C. Rosyth 1638/26).

Troop Convoys.

W.S.5B. Request you will sail ships in accordance with Admiralty's 1539/25 arranging air cover and reporting expected time of arrival at destinations. (C. in C. W.A. 1244/26 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, Belfast.)

OTTAWA. EUMAEUS. ABOSSO. SALOPIAN. GARLAND. Admiralty's 2147/23 OTTAWA is to escort EUMAEUS and ABOSSO from Liverpool. GARLAND is to escort SALOPIAN from Clyde. F.O.I.C.Liverpool is to sail and route convoy and arrange R/V with Clyde section. F.O.C.N.P. is requested to arrange R/V for inward escort of A.M.C.'s by OTTAWA GARLAND if convenient. (C. in C. W.A. 1630/26).

W.S.5B. (Arrangements for docking and loading) (D. of S.T. 2104/26 to D.S.T.O. Liverpool).

4.M.V's My 1227/26. Sailed 1800/26 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1812/26).

5 M.V's Intend sailing 1730/27 for Needles Channel. E.t.a. Needles 0830/28. Request escort. (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 2337/26.

H.X. 100 Your 1256/24 Date of sailing and R.V. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1109/26 to Admty). (C.O.A.C. Halifax to Admty 1114/26).

H.X. 99. Sailing telegram (list of ships) (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1425/26).

/Sailing....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

H.X. 99.
(contd).

Sailing telegram 1300 A.S.T. 26/12
Escorts, ALAUNIA PURPOISE, H H X
AURANIA
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1420/26).

S.C. 16.

Meet S.C. 16 15 ships unescorted
1000/28 068 54° 05'N. 17° 00'W. 068°
6½ knots then through 54° 30'N.
15° 15'W. 56° 10'N. 13° 30'W. 55° 50'N.
09° 00'W. Convoy form two columns
for passing through North Channel after
passing 08° 00'W.
(C. in C. W.A. 1428/26 to ACTIVE).

To avoid U-Boat to southward of track
alter course at daylight to regain
56° 00'N then steer 270° to 18° West
thence to 54°N. 25° 00'W. Inform
ROYAL CROWN destination changed to
New York.
(C. in C. W.A. 2126/26 to ACTIVE).

S.L. 58.

Adjust speed to arrive Bar not earlier
than 0930/27 Ships are not to anchor
at Bar Light Vessel.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1430/26 to
ANEMONE for Commodore).

PACIFIC GROVE.

Have S.S. PACIFIC GROVE ex H.X. 95
for Liverpool. Request Oban escort of
next E.N. convoy be detailed to R/V
in proximity of Lismore Lighthouse and
that time of R/V be signalled to Oban
to avoid delay.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1605/26).

KENT.
KELVIN.
KIPLING.

Cancel my 1554 re proceeding to Milford
Haven. Proceed to Plymouth in
accordance with previous orders.
(C. in C. W.A. 1658/26).

H.X. 96.

After passing through 60 degs. 00 mins
N. 13 degs 00 W. steer to pass through
58 degs. 00 mins N. 09 degs. 30 mins W.
thence to 56 degs. 30 mins N. 08 degs.
40 Mins W. Escorts are informed that
I estimate you will be in first
position about 1300/27.
(C. in C. W.A. 1908/26 to Commodore,
NORWEGIAN).

/? F.N. 68.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 26.12.1940. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (contd).

? F.N. 68.

Your 1801. Remain with anchored ships until F.N. 68 passes you then order them to weigh and enter proceeding with F.N. 68 yourselves. Convoy F.N. 68 Cmdre Lieut. Com. Lundy in s.s. EMPIRE PIGEON. Weigh 0900/27 Ships to date 31. Corvette escort GUILLEMOT.
(C. in C. Nore 2220/26 to FOWEY).

Your 1348. Do not allow any ships to anchor West of the Nore Light Vessel. Inform Commodore he is not to weigh tomorrow until ordered. Speed is to be 9 knots between East Cant and Garrison Point.
(C. in C. Nore 1431/26 to PELICAN, FOWEY).

Your 1435 to PELICAN. If visibility allows, anchor ships in swept channel between B 3 and East Spile. Otherwise in swept channel as necessary. Report when ships are anchored.
(C. in C. Nore 1535/26 to FOWEY).

Routes.

From South Atlantic - (See FOREIGN STATIONS, S. Atlantic).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5a and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).

Home Fleet Dispositions.

Movements ordered in case raider may attempt to return to Germany via Denmark Strait.
(C. in C. H.F. 2017/26 - see HOME COMMANDS, Operations).

VELOX, VIDETTE.

Sailed 0300/26 VELOX and VIDETTE in accordance with my 1642/25.
(S.O.(I) Gib. 0310/26 to S.O. Force H. etc).

Force K.

Indicate position course and speed and intentions.
(S.O. Force H. 0512A/26 to S.O. Force K).

WISHART.

Have been detached by S.O. Force H to join convoy during daylight of 27th. My position course and speed are 36° 24'N. 10° 20'W. 277° 12.5 knots altering course to 330° at about 0600/27. Oil remaining 287 tons. Shifting to 107 kilocycles per second.
(WISHART 0600/26 to F.O.C.N.A.).

My position 0800N. 040° 05'N. 023° 05'W. Intend trying to colledct convoy at Commodore's noon rendezvous and escort to 037° N. 016° W. Visibility 3 miles.
(S.O. Force K. 0837/26 to Admty S.O. Force H. and BERWICK).

Hasten reply to my 0512A/26.
(S.O. Force H. 0845A/26 to S.O. Force K).

DERBYSHIRE to assist EMPIRE TROOPER

Proceed to assistance of EMPIRE (TROOPER or DISCOVERER) believed damaged in position 043° 58'N. 024° 15'W. at 1751Z/25. CLYCLAMEN with W/T out of action was reported standing by at 1648Z.
(S.O. Force H. 0801/26 to DERBYSHIRE).

If in touch with EMPIRE TROOPER report position course and speed to Admiralty using her W/T if yours is out of action.
(S.O. Force H. 0807/26 to CYCLAMEN).

/Your.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S. 5a and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40.).

DERBYSHIRE to assist EMPIRE TROOPER (contd).

Your 0801/26. Following has been received from BONAVENTURE (begins). My position 41° 57'N. 23° 16'W. Proceeding to assistance of EMPIRE TROOPER. 1930/25 (Ends).
(D;O.D. (F) 1046/26 to F.O. Force H).

Instructions to W.S.5A.

Request you will instruct ships of W.S. 5A. by broadcast from Rugby and on 500 kc/s who are passing through either 309 Robin 442 or 331 Robin 436 or who are already to the south and east of above positions to steer position 334 Robin 166.
(S.O. Force H. 1105/26 to Admty).

Force K. Position.

My position course and speed are at 1200 N 039° 16'N 022° 14'W 175 degs 14. Visibility 1 mile improved. Your 0512 not received. None of Convoy met. Intend to maintain present course and speed. Flying impracticable at present.
(S.O. Force K. 1130/26 to S.O. Force H).

For - CLAN CUMMING, CLAN MACDONALD, ESSEX, EMPIRE SONG, NORTHERN PRINCE, BHUTAN, MENELAUS, SETTLER DELANE, CITY OF DERBY, STENTOR, ARABISTAN, EMPIRE TROOPER, ANSELM, CITY OF LONDON, TAMAROA, CITY OF CANTERBURY, NEURALIA, RANGITIKI, COSTA RICA, ELIZABETHVILLE, ORBITA.

Steer for position 334° ROBIN 166 miles repitition 334° ROBIN 166 miles.
(Admty 1342/26 to all ships area 1. G.B.M.S. Ships and Authorities, Rosyth).

All merchant ships of convoy W. S. 5A (including merchant ships for operation "EXCESS") have been ordered by broadcast method to steer for position 334° "ROBIN" 166 miles.
(D.O.D. (F) 1546/26 to F.O.'s Force H. and K. BERWICK, FURIOUS, etc).

/KENYA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S. 5a and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).

KENYA
Report
(false).

One Deutschland Class, bearing 022° 5 miles, course unknown my position 045 GXLE 11 point 12. (FXLE - see 1629/26 - 47°N, 11°W).

Message B.N. 242 appear to be a corrupt retransmission of KENYA's 1143 which reported one aircraft. (C.S.10 1540/26 to Admty).

KENYA's 1143/26 was apparently mutilated in transit and in fact referred only to one aircraft and not one pocket battleship. (D.C. 1759/26 to Areas A and B. North Atlantic & C.C.).

KENYA's 1143. It seems probable the enemy is proceeding to a French port. Request you will arrange destroyer night attack if possible. (D.O.D. (H) 1604/26 to C. in C. W.A.).

What was time of receip and frequency used? (D.S.O. 1605/26 to Ship: using Naval General Call sign AC who relayed KENYA's 1143/26).

KENYA's 1143 position was obviously F X L E. (47°N, 11°W) (D.C. 1629/26 to Area A and B, etc).

No battleship or other surface craft has been sighted by KENYA. (C.S. 10 1650/26 to Admty).

Cancel my 1604/26 (Requesting destroyer night attack on raider). (D.C. 1724/26 to C. in C. W.A.).

Pocket Battleship reported position 250° Ushant 240 miles at 1143/26. May be making for Bay of Biscay Port. TUNA patrol off Gironde. (V.A.S. 1636/26 to S/M's Area B).

Cancel my 1636 information was false. (V.A.S. 1709/26).

/BADEN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S. 5a and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).

BADEN Intercepted. — German s.s. BADEN intercepted 1245Z/26 by BONAVENTURE in 44°N., 25° 07'W. (See German Merchant Ships).

Force K. — My 1130 and your 1105. Have altered course to 110° at 1300N.
(S.O. Force K. 1324N/26 to S.O. Force H)

Force H, position. — My position, course and speed at 2000/26 will be 039° 06'N 017° 36'W 145° 16 knots turning to 305° at 0800 and then 037°N 016°W.

Force K. position. — S.L. Force K continue search for ships passing through 039° 08'N. 021° 38'W. and keeping me informed of situation.

FURIOUS. — FURIOUS to arrive 037°N. 016°W. at 1400/27 searching as far as possible to North and East for ships proceeding direct to Gibraltar.

BERWICK. — BERWICK to search to North and West of 037°N. 016°W. during forenoon of 27th rendezvousing with S.O. Force H. in above position at 1400 27th.

WISHART. — WISHART to patrol in vicinity of 037° N. 016° W. from dawn 27th keeping clear of Force H. during the night.

DUNEDIN. — DUNEDIN rendezvous as for BERWICK.

Ships addressed are to report at 2200/26 and 1200/27, number of Merchant ships in company. All times Zone-One.
(S.O. Force H. 1721/26).

FURIOUS. ARGUS. — Your 1721/26. ARGUS only in company, no Merchant ships. My position, course and speed at 2200 Zone-One is 040° 07'N. 018° 16'W. 133° 14 Knots. Intend to fly off reconnaissance to maximum depth to North and East at Dawn. (FURIOUS, 2010/26).

BERWICK. — Your 1721 (number of merchant ships in company) (BERWICK 2101Z/26).

/Ships.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S. 5a and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40)

Ships with Force K. NORFOLK.

Your 1721/26. NORTHERN PRINCE, CLAN MACDONALD British ship EMPIRE SONG in company are being detached to reach your rendezvous 1400/27 In view of NORFOLK's fuel intend to leave area 039°N. 021°W. at noon so as to reach 334°"ROBIN" 166 by 0800/28. NORFOLK will then be limited to 12 knots except for emergency reserve. All times in subject matter zone minus one.
(S.O. Force K. 2140/26 to S.O. Force H).

DORSETSHIRE. (to join Force K).

Your 1920/25. DORSETSHIRE ready to leave Freetown a.m./27 December. Request information for R/V with Force K and W S. 5A as soon as available.
(C. in C. S.A. 1341N/28 to Admty amended 1549/26)

DORSETSHIRE.

Admiralty's 1920/25 DORSETSHIRE sails Freetown 0630/27 at speed of advance 20 knots through position 011° 30'N. 020° 00'W. 020° 00'N. 020° 00'W. then to rendezvous with Force K and W.S.5A estimated to be in position 037°N. 016°W. at 1400/27. and proceeding thence by route given in Admiralty's 0218/17 and 1810/25.
(C. in C. S.A. 2147/26, to S.O. Force H. and Force K).

Your 1341/26. DORSETSHIRE should be sailed with moderate despath through positions 12° 40'N. 19° 30'W. 31°N. 21°W.
Rendezvous will be signalled later.
Following Secret Positions have been established for W.S. 5A.
34 degs. 30'N. 26 degs 00'W. PANSY.
34 degs. 30'N. 14 degs.30'W. ROBIN.
27 degs. 00'N. 26.degs 00'W. COW
20 degs. 00'N. 24 degs 00'W. DAISY
14 degs. 00'N. 20 degs 00'W. ROSE
(D.O.D.(F). 2145/26 to C. in C. S.A.)
Proceed in accordance with previous orders and Admiralty 2148/26.
(C. in C. S. A. 2337/26 to DORSETSHIRE).

/BERWICK.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S. 5a and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).

BERWICK. defects.

Your 1810/25 para. (v) It is considered necessary for BERWICK to proceed to Gibraltar.

(a) To investigate and make good underwater damage.
(b) To attempt to free X turret and make it serviceable with one gun.
(c) To refuel, 300 tons of fuel having been lost due to punctured tank.

(a) Probably can be done by listing ship. Dockyard assistance (?had been) required for work on Ship's side.
(b) Dockyard assistance required.

Request ship may be berthed starboard side to wall.
(BERWICK 2302Z/26 to Admty).

BONAVENTURE.

My position course and speed at 2200 B.S.T. 043° 20' 022° 38'W. 125° 20 knots. No one in company.
(BONAVENTURE 2345/26).

HOME SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

JOSEPH DUHAMEL
Intercepted.

Sending in Trawler JOSEPH DUHAMEL.
Intercepted at 1142 G.M.T. 034° 30'N., 015° 22'W., steering 110° at 0900 G.M.T. From Port Saint Pierre shipped in for Casablanca. Cargo 500 tons of fish. Armed Guard on board expected time of arrival 2200/28.
(HARDY 1900/26 to F.O.C.-in-C.N.A.)

HOME
and
SUBMARINE.
SPAX
reported
Lorient.

1222/30 from S.O.(I) Gibraltar and 1736/24, Movements of French ships, from H.A.Washington. Confirmation is requested that no British submarine was responsible.
(Head of M. 1935/26 to F.O.C.-in-C.N.A.)

MENDOZA.

Navifrance have applied in Montevideo for 750 tons oil fuel for French ship MENDOZA which is at present at Buenos Aires. Hoped to be able to prevent supply here.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2015/26 to Adty).

North Atlantic.

TUSCALOOSA.
American
Ambassador
for
France.

U.S.S. 8" Cruiser TUSCALOOSA with American Ambassador for French is due to arrive at Lisbon from United States A.M. 30/12. Route is not yet known but her presence in North Atlantic must be taken into account.
(D.N.I.C. 1547/26).

My 1547/26. Position of TUSCALOOSA at 1100/26 G.M.T. 35° 13'N., 47° 41'W.
(D.N.I.C. 2024/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE.

Your 1052/25 A/S Trawler KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE should be sailed with H.G.49 for refit at Liverpool. Intention to use four A/S Trawlers visiting U.K. for refits as additional escorts for H.G. and O.G. Convoys.
(D.A/S.W. 1640/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Daily Air Sea Operations.

2 routine A/S patrols.
(20th Group 1710/26 to Air Min).

South Atlantic.

CORNWALL.

Arrival December 26/12 CORNWALL.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0800Z/26).

HOFFSCHOLN ARAYNAK.

Overdue shipping my 1105/25 HOFFSCHOLN ARAYNAK arrived Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0945Z/26).

SIMONSTOWN.

Simonstown arrival 26/12.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1220Z/26).

HMTBS VOICE HYDROGEN.

My 1838/25 (1838/24 intended ?). Overdue shipping, British HMTBS VOICE and HYDROGEN arrived 26/12.

VINDICTIVE.

F.O.C.N.A's 1000/26. Cancel R/V with FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK. From position 025° 30'N., 020° 00'W., proceed at best possible speed to Freetown by following route: (a) 015° 40'N., 020° 00'W., (b) 009° 00'N., 015° 00'W., thence to Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 1247Z/26 to VINDICTIVE).

STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CAPE TOWN. Your 1906/16 and S.N.O. Simonstown 1643B/22. Approved to carry out repairs at Capetown in accordance with paragraph 2A. Requested that an immediate report be made as to what spare parts are required. It is appreciated that no elaborate alterations and additions can be carried out.
(D.O.D.(F) 1636/26 to C.in C. S.A.)

NEPTUNE. FREETOWN. Arrival 1315/26. Senior Officer Force K in NEPTUNE with DORSETSHIRE.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1705N/26 to S.A.S.A.D. 1618N/26 to Admy).

Internees. Accommodation. Your 93577 (M.O.4.) of 19/12. (a) Presence of internees in West Africa is an embarrassment to security and provision of guards is an additional commitment for which my resources sanctional inadequate. (b) Provision of suitable accommodation in West Africa for Europeans is always a most difficult problem and in Sierra Leone as I have repeatedly emphasized there is none without building. Particularly wish to avoid diverting materials and labour to construction of internment camps before my military needs are completed. Most strongly urge therefore that internees not retained in West Africa.
(C.O.C. W.Africa 1705/26 to W.O.)

Shelling. Corvettes. Convoy W.A.S.A. In view of submarine activity off Freetown suggest Corvettes should if possible be detached in time to fuel at Ponta Delgada and rejoin convoy W.A.S.A. in vicinity of Cape Verde Is.
(C.in C. S.A. 1841N/26 to S.O.Force K.)

DELHI. Movement of Foreign Legion. Left Cameroons River 1930 Zone minus One. Present maximum speed available: CAP DES PALMES about 14 knots, TOAUREG about 7 knots.
(DELHI 1954/26 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Shipping Intelligence Bulletin.

Cancel my 0908/11 and my 1737/9/12.
All merchant vessels, too slow for convoy and of 15 knots and over, s s to be sailed independently.

(2) All merchant vessels sailed independently from South Atlantic ports to U.K. direct are to be routed eastward of a line (a) joining positions:

1.	11 degs.	20 mins.	N.,	21° 10'W.,
2.	16	30		21 20
3.	25	00		24 10
4.	40	00		35 00

and westward of a line (b) joining position

1.	11 degs.	20'N,	20 degs.	00'West.
2.	40	00	19	00
3.	50	00	25	00
4.	56	00	25	00

Ships are to cross meridian 25 degrees west between 56 degs. and 59 degs. 30'N., and may pass either North or South Rockall outside 70 miles distance. Great care must be taken not to establish any focal point, particularly in the vicinity of 56 degs. North 25 degs. West.

3. Alternative routes to Oban Clyde Liverpool Milford Haven and Barry Roads are to be given to all ships.

4. Ships bound for East coast ports are to be routed to Oban unless they require Diesel or fuel oil or repairs to enable them to complete their voyage in which case they are to be sent to Clyde instead.

5. Attention is called to my 1330/30/10 and 1321/10/11 regarding air escort.

6. Shipping from Para and St. Vincent need not pass Eastward of positions 1,2,3 E of line A but is otherwise to conform.

7. Shipping bound for Gibraltar is to conform to instructions in para.2. until latitude 35 degs. North is reached.

8. Southbound ships will keep to westward of line joining positions A1 A2 A3, and eastward of Cape Verde Island. Masters should be warned that southbound shipping may be met northward of position A3 and southward of position A1.
(C.in C. S.A. 2351/26 to S.O.(I)s Capetown and Freetown for M.C.s.O's).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

COVENTRY damage.

My 1930/24. Damage sustained by COVENTRY. (details) Temporary repairs completed. Intend ship proceeds Malta at end of month for permanent repairs. (C.in C. Med. 1045/26 to Adty).

Air Report Alexandria Mail.

Operational Summary No.199 up to 1200 hours 26/12.

1 Egypt. Night 25/26th December. Further to para. 1 of my A.336 26/12. 5 Blenheims bombed Gazala North landing ground. Bombs fell in target area but results unobserved. One enemy aircraft dropped 4 bombs in sea off Alexandria. No damage or casualties. Day. 26/12. No bombing. Reconnaissances of Bardia and Tobruk areas reported no movements. No change in military situation Bardia.

2. Greece. Day 25/12. No bombing operations. One Sunderland searched South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping.

4. Kenya. Day 25/12. No bombing operations. JU86's made 2 patrols Mombasa. 3 troopships escorted. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1137/26).

Submarines.

My 2015/24 para.1. For 014° 31' East read 014° 15' East.
Para.2 of the same signal and para 1. of my 1321/26 to OSIRIS only, for 035° 30'N., read 0350 38'N.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1145/26).

My 2015/24 para.2. TRIUMPH and TETRARCH leave Malta 1715/25 through 035° 38'N., 014° 07'E thence former on course 205° and latter through positions; 034° 40'N., 013° 30'E., 034° 40'N., 014° 30'E., 035° 20'N., 015° 20'E. Anticipate TETRARCH's position at 0001/29 will be 034° 45'N., 013° 31'E. Times. Zone (minus) One.
(V.A.Malta 1321/26 to OSIRIS).

In your 2015/26 OTUS and OSIRIS are routed from position D through 0350 31' 014° 31'. Request this may be confirmed in view of WMS 96.
(Capt: S.1. 1907/26 to V.A.Malta.)

MOST SECRET.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

URANIA.

Admty. 1857/7. Panamanian ship URANIA arrived Suez 25/12 and is detained with an armed guard on board. Ship has mixed cargo for Suez and 500 tons of coffee for transhipment to Greece. Request early instructions observing that Embassy foresees political difficulties. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1254/26 to Admty).

Operation "EXCESS".

The 6 M.T.Ships in operation "EXCESS" are each fitted with 3-Spounder Mark VIII star single equipments for passage through Mediterranean. These guns belong to T.L.C's now on passage via Cape in W.S.5.A. on arrival of M.T. Ships at Alexandria guns and ammunition are to be removed and may be put to any local service pending arrival of T.L.C's provided they are suitable for latter when required. Crews for these guns are also in the M.T.ships and are to go with their guns on disembarkation from M.T. ships. If EXCESS does not go beyond Malta V.A.Malta is requested to arrange for onward passage of her guns and crews to Alexandria. Four additional guns and crews to bring total at Alexandria up to 14 for T.L.C's will be sent through Mediterranean at next opportunity. (D.T.S.D. 1604/26 to C.in C. Med.)

Malta Report.

Brindisi.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700/26. All times G.M.T. 0720 to 12.57 Glenn Martin 431 flight photographic reconnaissance Brindisi, Taranto for enemy naval untis. 09.06, sighted 1 tanker and small escort vessel speed 8 knots position 8 miles N.E. of Cape Otranto course, 310 degrees, Brindisi. Outer harbour 2 M/V's 8,000 to 10,000 tons and vessel resembling troopship 10,000 to 12,000 tons leaving harbour steering east. Inner harbour 4 cruisers 6 destroyers 5 submarines few small M/V's and approximately 30 seplanes. These units were disposed as follows. 1 cruiser anchored at base of Y shaped entrance to inner harbour. 3 cruisers and M/V's in southern fork of Y. Destroyers and submarines alongside of town Mole 1 moored cruiser and sundry merchant shipping. Clouds prevented photographs being taken.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 26.12.40. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Tarento. Tarento inner harbour. 3 cruisers 6 small destroyers alongside pens. Outer harbour cruiser in fairway of entrance to inner harbour and 3 destroyers alongside Y shaped jetty. 8 Fleet Auxiliaries scattered around. 1 Battleship on right side before entrance to inner harbour. Photographs taken reveal LITTORIO battleship in new dock inner harbour Tarento.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/26).

Enemy Intelligence. Yugoslav General Staff have information showing: (a) Garrison at Zara amounted to 6579 having been reduced by 2741 since November 10th. (b) Supplying of Dodecanese by Italy is being carried out exclusively by air and this with increased use of aircraft for maintaining communications with North Africa has led to interruption of whole civil aircraft communication inside Italy. (c) Italian S.S. OLYMPIA 6040 tons torpedoed daybreak 6/12 some forty miles S.W. Durazzo.
(N.I.D. Note. OLYMPIA sent out an S.O.S. at 0341/6 from somewhere in the Adriatic or Eastern Mediterranean).
(NOTE: Number of men employed agrees with information in L.D.)
(d) New Dydro plane Fiat S.R. 42 metal construction middle wing is in production. 2 Fiat A.74 S.R. 38 engines each 870 H.P. gives maximum speed 460 Kilometres per hour. Length of wing 19.5 metres, wing area 50 square metres. Crew 2-3 carried.
(e) 1800 men present working in Torpedo factory Fiume, output 45 torpedoes per mensem.
(f) N.A's Rome estimate Italy has lost 30 submarines up to 16/11. Since average 20% of total submarines strength believed to be constantly under repairs they consider Italy now 80 submarines in service.
(A.N.A. Belgrade, 1722/26 to D.N.I.)

U/BOAT Losses. [illegible]

Greece. To Admiral Sakellarion from 1st Sea Lord. (message of thanks for Xmas greetings).
(1st Sea Lord 1821/26 to A.N.A.Athens).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 26.12.40. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

HYPERION. (Sunk 22/12). The evidence in your 1035/23 does not entirely exclude the possibility of HYPERION being sunk by a U/Boat. Is there any evidence that HYPERION's contact was confirmed by other vessels? (D.M.S. 1942/26 to C.in C. Med.)

East Indies.

WILLEM VANDER SAAN. Durban arrival Netherlands Minelayer WILLEM VAN DE ZANN. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0455/26).

Netherlands M.L. WILLEM VAND DER ZAAN sailed 1000Z/26 E.T.A. Port Louis Mauitius p.m. 31/12 or a.m.1/1/41. according to weather conditions. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1000Z/26 to Adty).

Red Sea Convoys. My 1606/9/8 para. 3 regarding ships being sailed independently to Aden to join B.N. Convoy. Ships having no fuel or other requirements at Aden are to be sailed so as to arrive there within 3 days of convoy sailing date. Ships which have requirements at Aden are to be sailed (if possible) earlier than above, their being spaced out over the whole 15 day period. Next B.N. Convoy sailing date from Aden will be 2/1/41. (C.in C. E.I. 0708/26 to A.N.C.B.)

ANTENOR. My 1130/25. ANTENOR to leave patrol area West of Achin Head a.m. 27/12 and proceed direct to Colombo adjusting speed to arrive 0230Z/30. (C.in C. E.I. and 0811Z/26 to ANTENOR).

Troop Movement. N.O.I.C. Mauritius 1341/25 and S.S.T.O. India (Bombay's) 0600/25. In order to suit escort arrangement it is desired that troops should sail from Mauritious (date) S.S.T.O. India (Bombay) is requested to sail (TALAMBA) from Bombay so as to arrive Mauritius not later than (date). N.O.I.C. Mauritius thought troops will be ready to sail if TALAMBA arrives (dates) Whether TALAMBA will sail via Durban or to

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 26.12.40. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Suez direct will be decided as soon as possible. S.S.T.O. India (Bombay) is requested to confirm that TALAMBA can proceed (a) from Mauritius to Suez or (b) Durban to Suez without fuelling or water at Aden. (v) If troops cannot sail the movement will probably have to be postponed for at least a wek. (C.in C. E.I. 1152Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Mauritius).

Your 1152/26 Troops will be ready. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 1729/Z/26).

R.I.N.A/S. in Persian Gulf. Your 1242Z/24. Re employing of R.I.N.A/S in Persian Gulf. Confirmed that there is no objections. (D.A.S.W.) to .. (1240/26 to C.in C. E.I.)

KANIMBLA. KANIMBLA with NIEU ZEEKAND, JOHAN DE WITT arrived here. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 1301/26).

Shipping. Departure 26/12 PORT WYNDHAM, DELIUS POINT CLEAR (Greek) and BENALDER for Suez. Route. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1635Z/26).

Convoy. A.N.11. Sailing telegram. 1500 B/26. Escort HYACINTH from Port Said, PENNY and SALVIA from Alexandria. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1624/26).

KANIMBLA sailed in accordance with 1004/25 from C.in C. E.I. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 1803Z/26).

Aden Air Report. Summary No.197 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 hours G.M.T. 26/12. 6 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided fighter escort 3 for convoy B.S.11. 3 for W.S.4.B. 5 Blenheims sorties 203 Sqdn. made S sweeps covering latter convoy. 3 Gladiators 94 Squadron fighter patrol Aden 1000 to 1010 G.M.T. (Air H.Q. Aden 1730/26 to Air Min).

MOST SECRET.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-China Trade.

It is probable that in next few days permission to resume sailing between Indo China and Hong Kong and Singapore will be given on following basis British and Allied ships combined to be limited to two ships from Hong Kong and one from Singapore per month together with one Dutch tanker. Any port in Indo China may be used except Haiph. French to be allowed to send two ships to Hong Kong and one ship to Singapore per month. It is necessary to be as unobtrusive as possible and to spread ships over month. Hong Kong should therefore send ships about first and 20th of month and Singapore about 10th. Preparation may be to bring this into force as soon as further signal is sent.
(C.in C. China, 0823Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Hong Kong).

Far East Intelligence.

F.E.W.10. No major change. (a) Japanese Military Mission under Lieutenant General Yamashita has followed Naval Mission to Germany. (b) U.S.A. U.S. cruiser CINCINNATI arrived (corrupt group). (c) Indo China and Thai-Land. Initial conversation towards peaceful settlement reported. Meanwhile bombing and frontier incidents continue on small scale. Japan has announced her neutrality but now supplied munitions to Thai-Land only. (d) Raider situation. 500 (? survivors) information landed Emirau Island BISMARCK corrupt group.
(Capt: O.S. Singapore 1011Z/26 to A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. etc.)

TALLEYRAND.

Your 0737Z/23. If possible ascertain date TALLEYRAND was captured. Ship left Fremantle on 25/7.
(D.D.I.C. 1635/26 to S.O.(I) Shanghai).

Your 0213/21. Foreign Office suggest you repeat this signal to Ambassador Shanghai, Governor Hong Kong and Consul General Manila if these authorities not already informed.
(Adty. 1817/26 to C.in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

DIOMEDE.

Leave Trinidad after receipt of mail in LADY HAWKINS and proceed patrol square F.30 D to cover routes of outward bound shipping still proceeding direct to Sombrere and Mona passage. Fuel as necessary from Oiler BISHOPDALE who is ordered to await you at Tortola.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1001/26 to DIOMEDE).

Intelligence Security.

A.L.NID 0395/40 of Oct.20th para.20, suggests comprehensive study of security in whole intelligence area and will involve much extra work, while to accomplish it satisfactorily, additional reporting agents appear necessary. Request information whether any agents who could furnish additional reports to S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica. Question of collation and distribution of security of intelligence has been referred to in my 1511/11/12, to Admiralty only. S.O.(I) Kingston's present staff even with increase approved by my 1242/26/12 is insufficient to cope with collation and distribution of more intelligence than the three at present being received but if proposals in my 1511/11/12 are approved, it is considered requirements would be satisfactorily met.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1252/26 to Adty).

BADGER U.S.N.

Your 1034/10. (Propose not to claim salvage, regarding grounding of U.S. Destroyer BADGER). Approved but reconsideration may be desirable later and present arrangements should be regarded as without prejudice to possible future decisions.
(Hd. of M. 1331/26 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

STUREHOLM. (in H.X.84) Suspicious.

Your 1356/24 not to F.O.C. 3rd B.S. STUREHOLM (Swedish) was in H.X.84 and in vicinity of sinking of JERVIS BAY: Galveston previously reported crew and Officers pro German. If ship is located suggest she be carefully watched in future.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1517/26 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

CYRUS FIELD.

FOREIGN STATIONS.
America and West Indies. (Contd.)
Halifax departure 1744/26, Cable ship CYRUS FIELD.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1745/26).

Movements.

Arrival 26/12 REVENGE(from T.C.S.) ASSINIBORNE, RESTIGOUCHE. Departure, COLUMBIA, local escort ALNUNIA, PORPOISE Ocean Escort.
(S.O.(I) Halifax 1835/26 to Adty etc.)

Australia.

Raider attack.

A.C.N.B. 1243/25 (Release of communique re raider attack off New Zealand).
New Zealand Government agree in general with proposals but would prefer to mention TURAKINA HOLMWOOD KOMATA and (quote) overseas vessel recently lost off East Coast of New Zealand.
(N.Z.N.B. 0002/26 to Adty A.C.N.B.)

Your 1243Z/25 concur generally. Ref. para. D, suggest enemy commerce raiders be substituted for enemy raider force. You will be informed by signal as soon as next of kin procedure has been carried out here.
(D.P.D. 1658/26 to A.C.N.B.)

Raider Survivors C.B's Compromised.

My 1835Z/24 re survivors from captured ships. NARVIK prisoners are not included among survivors landed at Emirau. Captain stated they would be landed elsewhere 29/12. Raiders stated to have accurate knowledge shipping movements. S.P. 02272 Merchant Navy Code recoding Table. (8) and S.P. 02272 (9) believed to be in enemy hands.
(A.C.N.B. 0631Z/26 to Adty etc.)

TEIYO MARU Raider (ex KULMERLAND)

My 1835Z/24 Hopkins reports KULMERLAND (now renamed TEIYO MARU) is short of fuel and stores and considers she is probably now proceeding to Japan to replenish. Vessel is lightly armed has funnel with Osaka Shosen Gaisha markings. Japanese colours each bow amidships and stern. Carries a seaplane.
(A.C.N.B. Melbourne 0334Z/26 to Adty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

10 M/V's Sunk. Description of NANYO MARU.

My 18352/24. Naval Intelligence Officers at Kmirau report. (Begins). All ten vessels sunk. European survivors of TURAKINA, NOTOU, RINGWOOD still aboard NARVIK. HOLMWOOD November 25th 27 miles W. by S. of Durham Point, Chatham Isle, RANGITANE, November 27th 037 degrees South 176 degrees West. TRIONA, December 6th, VINNI December 7th TRIASTER KOMATA and TRIANIC December 8th near Nauru. This raider is NANYO MARU, Captain Essen, 5000 tons, probably 10-8inch guns and 5 pairs twin torpedo tubes generally like Hanser line, one Japanese Officer thought to be on board. Vigilant W/T Watch. D/F. Possible clue to raiders base nearby circular, narrow flat Atoll enclosing lagoon about ¾ miles diameter and entrance about ¼ mile wide. Method of attack one raider closes in astern and one on each beam 0930Z/26 (Ends).
(A.C.N.B. 1900Z/26 to Adty etc.)

WARREGO.
SWAN.
ORARA.

WARREGO, SWAN and ORARA arrived Port Phillip Bay 0158Z/26.
(A.C.N.B. 1135Z/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

BADEN intercepted.

Have intercepted German S.S. BADEN. Crew abandoned ship and set fire. Weather unsuitable for boarding. Ship appears to be floating normally and might be salved later. Embarked 39 survivors. My position is 044° N., 025° 07' W. Have not made contact with EMPIRE TROOPER. (BONAVENTURE 12452/26 to Adty recd. 1503/26)

German S.S. BADEN has reported being stopped by a British warship at 1200 in position 43° 00'N., 27° 45'W. BADEN sailed from Teneriffe on 15/12. From information available in Admiralty no British warship is in this position. (D.G. for D.D.I.C. 1402/26).

Cancel last sentence of my 1402/26. BADEN was intercepted by BONAVENTURE in position 44° N., 25° 07'W. (D.S.O. 1806/26).

OSSAG.

Cartagena reports German Tanker OS AG disguised as Spanish arrived 19/12 from Trieste with 3000 tons petroleum consigned to order. Reported she had narrow escape from our ships. Future movements unknown. (N.A. Madrid 1636/26 to Adty).

Italian Merchant Ships.

OLYMPIA.

Torpedoed 6/12. 40 miles S.W. Durazzo (A.N.A. Belgrade 1722/26) See Mediterranean.

TORCELLO.

Arrived Batoum with 5,000 tons gas oil. (Varna 1245/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.12.40.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CHARLES PRATT. (torpedoed 21/12.)

(Panamanian, 8982 tons) Boat with [illegible] ex CHARLES PRATT rescued position [illegible] 0140 15'W., at 1500/25. Another boat with 20 men adrift within radius [illegible] PICT is to search.
(C.in C. S.A. 0215/26 to F.O. [illegible] DORSETSHIRE, BULOLO).

CHARLES PRATT torpedoed by U/B [illegible] 1456/21 in position 008° 23'N., 016 [illegible] ship possibly same still afloat and on fire 006° 40' N., 014 (?16') W 24th/12.
(?21')
(?26')
(C.in C. S.A. 1129N/26 to Adty).

The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey announces (says a Reuter message from New York) that its tanker CHARLES PRATT has been "sunk" with the loss of 22 American lives. Twenty of the crew were saved. The tanker was flying the flag of the Panama Transport Company, which is a subsidiary of the Standard Oil. No details of the sinking are given. The CHARLES PRATT was a twin-crew ship of 8,982 tons built in 1916 at Newport News. (The Times, 28/12/40).

Cancel my 1804/25. (overdue shipping) (? 1806 intended). Panamanian ship CHARLES PRATT sunk by U/Boat in position 30 26' North 16° 50'West at 1455/12/21. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1747/26).

ARACATACA (torpedoed 29/11).

Your 1933/24 ARACATACA was hit with 2 torpedoes at 2130/29/11. Ship abandoned immedi tely but known to be still afloat at 2400. Although visinility good nothing further seen by survivors except quantity of cork slabs next morning believed to come from ship's insulation.
W/T distress messages were sent in accordance with regulations. Believed all passengers and crew left ship in 4 boats. Confidential books were not destroyed. Survivors were picked up 70 miles E.N.E. of positions ship torpedoed.
(N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires 1815/26 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

WAIOTIRA (British, 12823 tons). Following has been read. 5333 58 12 N., 17 35 W. WAIOTIRA torpedoed. (Lyness, T.O.R. 1906/26).

Proceed to position 058° 12' N., 017° 25' W. WAIOTIRA torpedoed at 1907. (C.in C. W.A., 1916/26 to VENOMOUS).

Request you will sail tug SEAMAN with all despatch to assistance of s.s. WAIOTIRA in position 58° 12' N. 17° 25' W. at 1907 today. Tug SUPERMAN is also being sent from Stornoway. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1927/26, to N.O.I.C. Oban).

Request you will sail tug SUPERMAN with all despatch to assistance of WAIOTIRA in position 58° 12' N., 17° 25' W. at 1907 today. Tug SEAMAN is also being sent from Oban. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1928/26 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

Detach one destroyer to assistance of WAIOTIRA torpedoed in position 58° 12' N. 17° 25' W. at 1906/26. (C.in C. H.F., 2141/26 to REPULSE).

Am standing by GBJB (Signal letters undecypherable, Presumably WAIOTIRA referred to in C.in C. Home Fleet's 2141/26). ( ) in position 058° 05' N. 017° 10' W. as requested by REPULSE. Ship was hit by torpedo. Propeller out of action. Salvage by ? a tug possible. Sent out life boat missing. Remainder on board. (MASHONA, 2222/26 to Admty.)

Cancel my 1916/26. (WAIOTIRA torpedoed - position). Proceed in execution of previous orders. (C.in C. W.A. 2230/26 to VENOMOUS).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.12.1940.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1223. D.F., probable U/B 50.30 N., 15.17 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1310/26).

Gironde. My 1024/18. TUNA may adjust her position to intercept U Boats reported to be making Gironde but when not so engaged is to remain near the patrol line ordered. (V.A.S., 1456/26 to S.2.)

My 2324/18. Position may be adjusted to intercept U-Boats reported to be making Gironde but when not so engaged you are to course near patrol line ordered. (Capt. S.2. 1817/25 to TUNA).

1930/26. CLAN MATHESON reports sighting periscope S/M at 1830 G.M.T./26 in position 000° 10' South 008° 30' West. (C.in C. S.A. 2317/26, to DELHI).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian.
1 possibly in Madeira area.
2 near or to eastward of Azores.
1 arriving Gironde p.m. today.
1 about 45° - 46° N. 5° - 6° W. bound for Gironde
4 more probably following.
2 in N.W. Approaches possibly between 53° N. and 55° N. 16° W. and 18° W.

German.
1 off Freetown.
1 estimated 25th near 43° N. 25° W. is doubted.
1 between 57° N. and 59° N. 17° W. and 20° W.
1 attacked EVERLEIGH 1400/25 near 59° N. 21° W.
2 between 57° N. and 59° N. near 20° W. one of which may have left for home.
1 may arrive in Norwegian waters today. (D.D.I.C. 1252/26).

Submarines Attacked.

SARASTONE, 1550/22. Master of SARASTONE reports he was in action with Submarine of unknown nationality 1550/22 041° 18' N. 015° 14' W. Hit submarine twice in about same position abaft conning tower under after gun, when last seen 1700 submarine stopped with smoke pouring from stern and up by bow. As SARASTONE could only steam at 5 knots owing to boiler trouble and had only seven shells left she broke off action and proceeded to Lisbon for boiler repairs. She was not hit. Full report follows. (Lisbon, 2001/26, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET. 17.12.40. Friday. 94

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Dover.

U/V to be examined at Skopen Fiord.

Swedish RESSAREN should be boarded and examined at Skopen Fiord but allowed to proceed if nothing suspicious discovered.(D.O. D.N. 1823/27.)

Defence of U.K.

Langstone Harbour Harning of Oil as Invasion Defence.

A.L. M/L201407/40 of 18/11/40 and Portsmouth 6442/011SC(S/11) dated 7th December 1940. Dockyard work on Langstone Harbour Experimental Installation was completed on 17/12, but commencement of experiments was then delayed by carrying away of buoying and securing arrangement for underwater pipe lines. Experiments commenced on 23/12. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1057/27 to Adty.)

DELIVER.

At 1130/27. (D.C.1136/27).
At 2330/27. (D.C.2352/27).

Dover.
Withdrawal of Guns.

To equip an A.M.C. with long range guns, it has become necessary immediately to withdraw six of the twelve 6" guns temporarily mounted in the Dover Area. A corresponding number of 6" Mark VII guns on P.III mountings could be made available for Army use. It is estimated that delivery of these could start in about 14 days.
Request your concurrence and remarks.
(D. of L.D. 1938/27 to War Office.)
Your 1938/27. Concur. Will release 4 Folkestone 2 St. Margarets. Intend to replace with 6 inch Mark 7.(Before 2345/ to Adty.)

Dungeness H.A.A. Battery.

My 1838/24, 1813/11, and your 1815/13. M.N.B.D.C. Dungeness Battery complete with all equipment as laid down in War Equipment Tables is to be turned over temporarily to Home Forces until relief by R.M.Personnel of M.N.B.D.C.(2).
2. Request you will report number of Fire Control personnel from M.N.B.D.C.(2) who could be made available for this battery.(D. of L.D. 1403/27 to C.C.R.M. Group, M.N.B.D.C.)

Movements.

GIBRALTAR.

Sailed 0830/27. C.N.T. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0830/27.)

/WHITSHED.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

WHITSHED. My 1836/22. Sailing postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Nore 0924/27.)
My 0924/27. Sailing postponed further 24 hours. (C. in C. Nore 2044/27.)

WOLVERINE. WITCH. } Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0927/27.)

QUORN, HOLDERNESS. Arrived 0920 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0937/27.)

ST. MARYS. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Newport 1000/27.)

WITHERINGTON. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1054/27.)

BIRMINGHAM. Arrived Scapa 1120 (A.C.O.S. 1144/27.)

BATH. Sailed for Port Z.A.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1243/27.)

KENT, KIPLING, KELVIN. Arrived 1114. (C. in C. W.A. 1446/27.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1539/27.)

NAIAD. Arrived with F.O.C.S. 15 at Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 1552/27.)

ROXBOROUGH, RIPLEY. Arrived Plymouth 1636. (C in C. W.A. 1710/27.)

BRIGHTON. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1715/27.)

VETERAN. Arrived. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1835/27.)

VANQUISHER, WHITEHALL. Arrived, fuelled, sailed.(Capt.D. Londonderry 1835/27.)

VESPER. Sailed for Rosyth. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1835/27.)

CALIFORNIA. Take Areas E.2. and F.2.(F.O.C.H.F. 2210/27 to Western Patrol.)

/CURACOA.....

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

CURACOA — Arrived Scapa 2303/27 (A.C.O.S. 2305/27)

KASHMIR
JERSEY
JUPITER — Sailed Plymouth 1750 (C. in C., W.A., 0016/28)

Operations

Convoy C.E. 20 Shelled — From 0310 to 0641 Enemy Batteries fired between 200 and 250 rounds at C.E. 20 between Dungeness and South Foreland. All falling in the sea. Convoy passed Dover at about 0600. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A.Dover 1019/27)

BLACKTHORN
DEODAR
Damaged — BLACKTHORN and DEODAR (M/S Trawlers) damaged by shellfire during passage of C.E. 20. (C. in C., Nore 1650/28 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Operation P.V. 1. — Carry out tonight between 2000 and 2130. One A/C with flares and one with bombs. (C. in C., Nore, 1210/27)
My 1210. Operation P.V.1. will continue till 2230. (C. in C., Nore, 1941/27)

Western Channel. Interception of M/V's — Four small steamers observed South of Ushant at 1530 may proceed up Channel tonight.
2. Proceed towards 49° 10' N., 03° 20' W and thence sweep to Westward to intercept steamers.
3. If no contact by longitude of Ushant return towards Plymouth arriving 1030/28. (C. in C., W.A., 1714/27 to KASHMIR)

Proceed with despatch towards 48° 30' N., 5° 45' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1911/27 to KASHMIR)

My 1911. There are indications of enemy activity which may mean the return of ships to Brest from Westward.
(2) Object is interception and destruction of ships returning to Brest.
(3) Patrol between A. 48° 30' N., 05° 45' W and B 48° 00' N., 05° 45' W.
(4) Discontinue patrol in time to arrive in 180° Lizard 20 by 0830/28 thence to Plymouth. Fighter protection will be arranged from 0830/28. (C. in C., W.A., 1940/27 to KASHMIR)

Iceland Faroes Passage — My 1214/23. Intend to proceed in NELSON tomorrow to patrol to Eastward of Iceland Faroes Passage. (C. in C., H.F. 1936/27 to Admty.

/(1).....

HOME FLEET.

Nor Diary.

27. 10. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. Contd.

Iceland Faroes Passage.

(1) Intend to proceed in H.M.S. NELSON with four destroyers at 1300 tomorrow.
(2) Force will pass through 059° 05' 003° 55' W speed of advance 16 knots and thence along meridian 003° 55' W to patrol to eastward of Iceland Faroes passage.
(3) C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange A/S air escort during daylight 30th, and air arm co-operation during patrol. Code word LABEL.
(4) Force will return to Scapa 2.M./31.
(5) Admiralty pass to HQCC.
(C. in C. H.F. 2301/27 to A.C.C.S.)

Submarines.

SURFISH.

Leaves Blyth 1100, unescorted to Gap A, thence to Patrol. (C. in C. Rosyth 0323/27, (S.6.1100/27) Sailed (S.6.1101/27) Sailed (S.6. 1101/27.)

L. 26.

Exercising with Escort Vessels from 1130 to 1800 about 5 miles East of Hay Island. (C. in C. Rosyth 0328/27.)

TAKU.

Arrived Troon. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1050/27.)

O.23.
SEALION.

There are indications that enemy force may move south along Norwegian Coast. Netherlands submarine O.23 petrol in the vicinity of 000° 10' N. 004° 10' E. SEALION if not at present operating in Fro Hayet proceed to vicinity of 063° N. 004° 28' E.(V.A.S. 1436/27.)

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1610/27.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/28. (V.A.S. 1614/27.)

L.13.

Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.C.S. 1648/27.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Additional Patrol ordered today: BENT, MORRILL, STAND. (C. in C. Rosyth 0732/27.)
3 Blenheims leave Dyce 0800 to patrol to Flamborough Head and return. (C. in C. Rosyth 0746/27.) My 1744/24. Patrol MURRAY is not being flown today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0810/27.)

My 1851/16. Intend sailing 3 Skuas at 1030 today. (Hatston 0946/27 to A.C.C.S.)

Additional Patrol S.A.S. being flown today in modified form tracks E to K. Also 3 Blenheims will patrol Fair Isle Channel between 1045 and 1145. (C. in C. Rosyth 1006/27.)

My 1744/24. Patrol MURRAY will not be flown tomorrow following cross over by Sunderland A/C being substituted throughout daylight. 62° 30' N 5° 24' W, 62° 30' 7° 00' W. 64° 00' N. 6° 24' W, 64° 00' N 7° 00' W. (C. in C. Rosyth 1540/27 to C. in C. H.F.)
One Sunderland will carry out a Line Patrol daily from 20/12 till 31/12 inclusive between 62° 7' N. 7° 40' W. and 64° 14' N. 14° 30' W. (C. in C. Rosyth 1700/27 to C. in C. H.F.

Patrols described in my 1540/27 and my 1700/27 will not be flown tomorrow Saturday but the following search will be substituted. Sunderland leaves Sullom Voe at 0800/28 for Videro (62° 22' N. 6° 30' W. Then on a course 011° to 67° N, thence to Sullom Voe direct.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2240/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

Lorient.

35 and 59 Sqdns., will attack tonight S/M's and Naval Dockyard at Lorient. (H.Q.C.C. 1247/27 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Bordeaux.

217 Sqdn. will attack tonight S/M's in No. 1 Basin at Bordeaux. Alternative Target, Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1303/27 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Fort William.

Suggest Light on Corran Point be extinguished as affording a mark for enemy A/C. (S.A.C.F. 1351/27 to Adty.)

Norwegian Coast M/V's and Vettics attacked.

My 0946/27. One Skua returned early with defect. Three Skuas attacked M.V. of 4,000 tons in basin on Tisoy Island Haugesund. One certain hit with 40 lbs.

HOME WATERS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Norwegian Coast M/V's and Jetties attacked.

M.L. Bomb. Possible one hit with 250 lbs., S.A.P. bomb and certain damage from near mission Jetty. Ship set on fire and direct hits scored on two adjacent warehouses. Fourth Skua attacked 1500 ton M/V at Sarpsskjeer Jetty. Bombs hit warehouse on jetty alongside. Surprise was achieved but more heavy and light A.A. was encountered than formerly. One Pom Pom silenced by M.G. fire. New construction on Hovoer Island also machine gunned thought to be possible R.D/F Station. No other shipping seen All aircraft returned safely. (Hatston 1723/27 to A.C.O.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy ATTACK.

Enemy bombing Convoy in 51° 48' N. 1° 28' E. (VALOROUS 1010/27.) Single A/C attack. Dropped 3 heavy Bombs, straddling an Oiler. (VERSATILE 1010/27). One Dornier 17. 2 delayed-action Bombs. No damage. (VALOROUS 1019/27.) One A/C attacking Convoy in 51° 42' N. 1° 22' E. (VALOROUS 1023/27.) Fighters being sent (Nore W/T. 1030/27.)

Oban.

My 1965/24. A/S Trawler SOUTHERN STAR reports she was attacked by A/C at 1730/23 while on Firth of Lorne Patrol, and that 3 A/C took part in subsequent attack on Oban. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1140/27 to Adty.)

GLEN AVON.

Paddle Minesweeper. Being attacked by A/C in 55° 7' N. 0° 45' W. (GLEN AVON 1330/27 to Wick Radio.) No damage (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1324/27.)

Convoy ATTACK.

Being shadowed by one A/C in 52°N. 1° 45' E. (GUILLEMOT 1726/27.)

Deptford.

A large H.E. Bomb fell at about 2000/27 outside front of Chocolate Store. Front of Store wrecked and some other damage. (Supt. R.N.V.R. Deptford 1015/28.)

Mining.

S.S.S.105 and 108.

Swept from A Buoy to Sandhead Buoy 75° from 0800/26 to 0800/27. One sweep cut by Explosive Cutter. No Mines. (V.A. Dover 1030/27.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames Gate. Change of Position.	My 1918/26. Removal of Thames Gate to new position completed. New position as follows. Sweeping of this area completed with negative result. (C.-in-C. Sheerness 1236/27.)
ARABY.	(British, 4936 Tons) Mined at 1445/27, in the Southern Thames, Gateway, Nore. 6 or 7 ships had passed over same spot immediately ahead of ARABY, and about 35 ships of which 7 were Motor-Vessels had passed over it during this forenoon. The spot had been swept several times during the forenoon by M.L. and S.A. Sweepers. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1644/27.)
VICTORIA.	(Isle of Man Steam Packet, 1641 Tons) Mined at 1540/27 in 290° Bar Light Vessel 8 miles. Passengers and Mail being landed. Ship in tow back to harbour. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1612/27.)
Firth of Forth.	At 1258/27 a Mine was detonated by M/S Trawler in 56° 1' 12" N. 3° 5' W. (C. in C. Rosyth 1611/27.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coast.	W/T Traffic suggests a movement to the Southward along the Norwegian Coast in the near future. (D.D.I.C. 1234/27.)
E-Boat.	Possible E.Boat reported near Position Z, steering N.E., at 1850 (C. in C. Nore 1859/27 and 1929/27.)

MOST SECRET.

27. 12. 40.
Friday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

H.T.B.29. Sank at 2330/26 after fouling Boom. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0127/27.)

WORMSDRECHT. (Dutch, 4663 Tons) Leaking badly in engine-room in 51° 40' N. 1° 18' E. One Tug from Harwich and one from Sheerness to proceed immediately and tow to Southend. (C. in C. Nore 1161/27.) Ship proceeding to Convoy. Will probably get in without help. (VERSATILE 1186/27 to C. in C. Nore.) Tug not required.(VERSATILE 1316/27 to N.O.I.C. Harwich.)

PROFICIENT. (Stranded 20/12 on Whitby Sands) Salvage
M.V. Drifter.) Contractor reports that, owing to very heavy seas, Ship is a Total Loss. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1833/27.)

VALIANT. Delayed at Plymouth with engine defects. (C. in C. W.A. 1928/27.)

MOST SECRET.

27. 12. 1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.

Shipping.

H X 99. My 1428/26. PENRITH CASTLE carrying munitions. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 0926/27.)

C.E.30. Shelled by enemy batteries 0310 to 0641, all falling in sea. (V.A. Dover, 1019/27.) Arrived Southend. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1501/27.)

E. N. 47. My 2014/26. Amend to read 37 ships, none for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1028/27.)

S.C.17. Date and route. MALOJA returns to Halifax. (D. & D., 1126/27.)

S.C.18. Your 1317/25. Date and route. (C.O.A.C. Halifax to Admty 1150/27.)

O.B.O. 265. Sailed 0400/27. Escort VISCOUNT, 10 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban 1235/27. to Admty. Estimate will be passing 6 miles to southward of H.X.96 (position about 2345 tonight. (C. in C.W.A. 1512/27, to WHITEHALL, etc.)

S.L.61. Your 1757/24. R.V. and date. (N.C.S.O. Freetown to Admty. 12 x 3/27.)

S.L.58)
H.X.95) Your 1914/16. Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1405/27 1835/27 to Admty.)

H.O.42. My 1332/26. Additions to list. (A.C. North Atlantic, 1414/27.)

F.H.68. 4 ships and 17 trawlers joining (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1706/27.) Harwich to Blyth, s.s. LIGHTFOOT S/S. (N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1506/27.)

F.S.72. Sailed 1400/27. 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1315/27). 1 ship and 3 H.M.T's from Humber joining (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1708/27) List 1629/27.)

H.X.97. Route from R.V. (D.T.D. 1548/27 to C. in C. W.A.

O.B.168. Route. (D. T. D. 1550/27. to N.C.S.O's.)

O.B.264. Disperse in 25° W. (C. in C. W.A, 1712/27 to Cdre, MATADIAN.)

O.B.M.266. 1704/27. ROSEMARY. Onc. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1715/27.)

E.H.46. All 16 ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1830/27.)

MOST SECRET.

27. 12. 40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys. Contd. Shipping.

S.L.52. Extract from sailing telegram as amended by Admty.(D.T.D, 1850/27.)

S.C.16. Meet. (C. in C.W.A, 2020/27, to ACTIVE, ANTELOPE, GEORGETOWN, HEATHER, PICOTEE.)

F.S.70. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames. 2302/27.)

F.S.69. Arrived all ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 2313/27.)

F.S.75. Sailed 2300/17. 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2358/27.)

O.B.C.265. 2343/26/12/40 sailed O B C 265 8½ knots Escort WINCHELSEA.(List.)N.C.S.O.Clyde 0010/27.

S.L.58. Your 0005/27. ANEMONE reports Liverpool Section of S.L.58 will be in position 055° 32'N004° 46' W. at 0900/27. (C. in C.W.A. 0211/27 to LEEDS UNITED.)

H.X 95 B.N. LOCH DEE, (BRAGANZA), HARONALIHAT, H X 95 B'N arrived Barry Roads. Escort HUDDERSFIELD TOWN sailed in execution of previous orders. (N.O.I.C. Barry,0935/27.

F.N. and F.J. Forecast of convoy sailings 31/12 to 5/1/41 and escorts.(C. in C. Rosyth, 1017/27.)

E.N.48. Sailed at 0850/28 for exercises and act subsequently as additional A/A escort to E.N.48 sailing at 2230/28. After passing Dunnet head proceed to Scapa A.C.O.S. is requested to sail JASON to join W.N.61 due Duncansby Head 1330/31. code word for E.N.48' Paddle and for W.N.61' Rusty.(C. in C. Rosyth, 1031/27 to JASON.)

W.N.59. W.N. 59 expected time of arrival Kinnaird Head 2100/27.(Commodore W.N. 59 1050/27 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

H.X.97. F.O.C. Northern Patrol's 1250/14. After passing 25 deg. West leave H X 97 (route to Clyde.)(C. in C.W.A.,1120/27, to WORCESTERSHIRE.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27. 12. 40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoy.

S.L.S. 61.

Your 1659/24, and your 0316/25.
S L S 61. rendezvous in position Y 053° 40' 016° 30'W, 0845 G.M.T. 21/1/41, joining H.G.50 at X 038° N. 020°W, 0900 G.M.T. on 13/1/41.

H. G. 50.

(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1219/27 to Admty.)

Part company with convoy H X97 at dusk 29/12 and return to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 2254/27, to REPULSE.)

O.G.48.

Sail TIERCEL to Gibraltar in convoy O G 48. Rendezvous 270° Oversay 6 miles at 1540/30.
(C. in C. W.A. 1128/27 to WESTERN ISLES.)

O.G.48.

Ref. 1128/27. From C. in C. W. TIERCIEL arriving Greenock 1000/28 require to rerange. 80 tons Scotch coal. Request Admiralty be asked to instruct Lieut. Hartnell to join TIERCIEL at Greenock 29/12 or another officer be appointed to sail in TIERCIEL. (WESTERN ISLES, 1730/27.)

S.M.V.'s.

N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 2337/26.
(Proposed sailing of 5 M/VS and request for escort) C.in C. W.A. 1208/27 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)(No escort available.

My 2326/26 and your 1202/27, sailed unescorted.(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1707/27.) and 1739/27.)

C. W. 21.

Intend to sail C.W. 21 from Southend at 1130/30.(Timetable at 7 knots.) Care is to be taken to keep convoy well closed up between Sand Head buoy and position 'C' M.L's detailed are to be towed between Sheerness and North Goodwin and whilst in tow engines and dynamos are not to be used.(C. in C.Nore 1228/27.)

Not met. A.M.C. MARSDALE also searching Panamanian ship TURIL was sighted hove to at 1600/26 in position 051° 34' N. 021° 30'W. My estimated position 053° 35' north 016° 32' West.
(WELLINGTON 1300/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

27. 12. 40.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

H.M. 47. Buchan Ness 1320/27 B.S.T. Speed made good 6 knots. (RAYSTAR 1340/27.)

O.G. 48. Two Sloops are to sail with O.G.48, one is to leave convoy in time to arrive Gibraltar and bring back H.G.50 sailing January 11th. The other is to proceed to Gibraltar with Convoy and bring back H.G.51 sailing January 21st. (C. in C. W.A. 1440/27. to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

H.M.S°. CURACOA proceed as necessary 28/12 to meet in Pentland Firth convoy W N 60, code word "Chitty" BERKSHIRE A/A. escort WOLFHOUND, expected Duncansby Head 1100/28 but probably early. Part company after dark and return to Scapa. (R.A.D. A.F., 1632/27 to CURACOA etc.)

S.M.V'n. Sailed at 1630/27 for Clyde for D/G repairs, PACIFIC GROVE, for Ayr for repairs, SPERO (Nor.). For Ardrossan for repair FLYNDERBORG (Br.). Escort SAVOYARD. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1720/27.)

TIRRHEL. Sailed Tobermory 27/12. TIRRHEL Greenock 0900/28. (WESTERN ISLES, 1910/27.)

Troop Convoys. W. H. 60. FORESIGHT and FEARLESS will be required to sail as part of A/S escort for W.S.5 B. They should accompany the convoy as far as endurance permits, afterwards proceeding to Gibraltar to rejoin Force H. After completion of defects they should remain under the command of C. in C. Western Approaches until sailed. (1613/27. to C. in C. W.A. H.F. etc.) (D.C.S.(H).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40)

RENOWN
ARK ROYAL.

Your 2350/26. Am proceeding with RENOWN and ARK ROYAL unscreened to locate EMPIRE TROOPER.
(S.O. Force H., 0203/27, to Admty.)

Am proceeding with RENOWN and ARK ROYAL to search for EMPIRE TROOPER. SHEFFIELD proceeding with 7 destroyers as in paragraph one of my 1721/26. Take charge of operation. (S.O. Force H., 0258/27 to S.O. Force K).

Corvettes

Your 0830/25. (No trace in War Registry) Can you give any further information regarding condition of EMPIRE TROOPER. Where are Corvettes?
(S.O. Force H, 0256/27, to CLEMATIS).

EMPIRE TROOPER, condition.

EMPIRE TROOPER reports being hit in number 1 hold. Seen through mist 1 hour later steaming 13 knots believe damage not serious. Unable to locate her or Corvettes owing to bad visibility. Shells fired at CLEMATIS were 6-inch or less. Arrive at intermediate port 0800 today.
(CLEMATIS 0530/27, to S.O. Force H).

Corvettes to Ponta Delgada.

Proceed to Ponta Delgada and fuel with despatch than at maximum speed to overtake convoy and report position on 29/12.
(S.O. Force K, 0745/27, to JONQUIL, CLEMATIS, GERANIUM).

EMPIRE TROOPER position.

Request you ask EMPIRE TROOPER to report her postion from "ROBIN" to Admiralty.
(S.O. Force H, 0805/27 to Admty.)

Report your position relative to "ROBIN"
(D.O.D.(F) 1014/27, to EMPIRE TROOPER).

DORSETSHIRE

Departure 0630/27/12 DORSETSHIRE in accordance with C. in C. S.A's 2337/26/12
(Refers to Admiralty 2148/26).
(S.O.I. Freetown 0915Z/27.)

Convoy "Excess".

Admty. 1810/25 para. 4. As it may be difficult for S.O. Force H to forecast his movements at present suggest convoy "EXCESS" be ordered into Gibraltar until such time as S.O. Force H is prepared to break W/T silence to appoint convenient date for D one day.
I have no objections to postponement but early decision is essential for movements in Eastern Mediterranean already commenced to to adjusted. (C.in C. Med., 0057/27 to Admty.).

/ Assuming that ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).
(Contd.)

Assuming that you can break W/T silence request you will reply to C.in C. Med.'s 0957/27.
(D.O.D.(F) 1331/27 to S.O. Force H).

Your 0957/27 not to DUNEDIN, BONAVENTURE, ARGUS, SHEFFIELD. Operation "EXCESS" must be postponed one day. Possibly (? more) depending on situation.
(S.O. Force H, 1532/27 to C.in C. Med.)

DERBYSHIRE — My position course and speed at 1000 were 043° 14' N. 024° 00' W. 348° 14 knots. Position by dead reckoning. Visibility ½ mile. (DERBYSHIRE 1005/27 to S.O. Force H).

EMPIRE TROOPER situation — Standing by EMPIRE TROOPER, holed numbers one and four hatches, situation serious depending on number two bulkhead. 0809/27.
041° 00' 022° 09' 138° four. A/S gear and assembly transmitter out of action.
(CYCLAMEN, 1013/27 to Admty.)

Corvettes, Ponta Delgada. — Request immediate report of arrival of corvettes CYCLAMEN, CLEMATIS, JONQUIL, GERANIUM if they put in to Ponta Delgada.
(D.O.D. (F) 1035/27 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).

CLEMATIS and JONQUIL arrived Ponta Delgada 1000 G.M.T. 27/12 GERANIUM arrived 1130 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1120/27).

DUNEDIN. — My 2101 Z/26 not to S.O. Force K and S.O. Force H. 1721/26. No change.
(DUNEDIN, 1059Z/27, to S.O. Force K).

FURIOUS
ARGUS
DUNEDIN
BERWICK
SHEFFIELD — Detach FURIOUS, ARGUS, DUNEDIN and five M.T. ships when collected to Gibraltar with the necessary destroyers. BERWICK, SHEFFIELD and the other destroyers remain at rendezvous till Force K arrives.
(S.O. Force K 1228/27 to BERWICK).

DERBYSHIRE
RENOWN
ARK ROYAL — In view of CLEMATIS's 0830/27 propose DERBYSHIRE remain in the vicinity of "LARK" until whereabouts of EMPIRE TROOPER established. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL return to Gibraltar covering convoy.
Weather conditions vicinity "LARK" reported unsuitable for air reconnaissance.
My position 040° 12' N. 017° 40' W.
(S.O. Force H, 1150A/27 to Admty.)

Your 1150. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL should remain in area until situation regarding EMPIRE TROOPER is cleared up or as long as endurance of screen allows.
(V.C.N.S. 1402/27 to S.O. Force H).

/ I am assuming ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40)
(Contd.)

I am assuming your 1402/27 direct. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL to rejoin Destroyer screen in the vicinity 037° N. 016° W. and continue round up and remainder convoy. Am proceeding accordingly. (S.O. Force H 1555/27 to Admty.)

FURIOUS, no transport in company.

S.O. Force H's 1721/26 (Report of merchant ships in company) nil. (FURIOUS, 1200/27, to S.O. Force K).

BERWICK, FURIOUS, ARGUS, SHEFFIELD.

My position is 037° 07' N. 015° 40' W. FURIOUS Capt. (D) 8 and two destroyers proceeding to Gibraltar at best possible speed to refuel and rejoin convoy. ARGUS, three ships of Gibraltar convoy, Capt.(D) 13, and six destroyers proceeding to Gibraltar at ten knots. Alldestroyers have to return to oil. SHEFFIELD remaining in this vicinity to pick up stragglers. BERWICK searching to North and North-West returning 0700 zone plus one tomorrow Saturday. (BERWICK, 1411/27 to S.O. Force H).

BONAVENTURE S.L.89.

BONAVENTURE reported S.L.89 in position 42° 44' N. 21° 29' W. at 0115 B.S.T. today Friday. (C.in C. M.A. 1436/27 to KENYA).

FURIOUS

Expect to arrive boom entrance 1430/28 PAULKNOR and FIREDRAKE in company. Require 2800 tons fuel. Request escort to enable FURIOUS to rejoin W.S.5A immediately on completion. (FURIOUS, 1455/27 to F.O.C.N.A.).

EMPIRE TROOPER.

My Bearing 321° from "Robin" 520 miles. Holed by raider number one hold full of water, bulkhead holding water, trouble when steaming mean speed of 5 knots M.L.A. 142 degrees. Suggest send assistance to disembark men if necessary weather calm at present. (EMPIRE TROOPER, 1520/27 to Admty.)

FURIOUS.

Your 1126. SHEFFIELD detached. FURIOUS screened by PAULKNOR.
FIREDRAKE and FOXHOUND to Gibraltar for emergency fuelling with a view to rejoining W.S.5A as soon as possible for passage to Freetown.
Have sent FOXHOUND back.
Shall I (a) rejoin M.T. ships now or
(b) proceed Gibraltar and then rejoin as soon as possible.
My position course and speed are at 1600 Zone minus one - 036° 54' N. 015° 26' W. 088° 23.
(FURIOUS, 1624/27 to S.O. Force K).

/ Your 1624. ...

MOST SECRET.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).
(Contd.)

Your 1624. Proceed to Gibraltar.
(S.O. Force K 1626Z/27 to FURIOUS).

EMPIRE TROOPER

Proceed to EMPIRE TROOPER in position 040° 40' N. 021° 14' W. course 138° 5 knots.
(S.O. Force H, 1730A/27 BONAVENTURE, DEVONSHIRE.

Send two destroyers with (?best) endurance at 16 knots to assistance of EMPIRE TROOPER in position 040° 40' N. 021° 14' W. at 1800A, course 142° speed five knots.
(S.O. Force H, 1806A/27, to SHEFFIELD).

Proceeding in accordance with your 1730 A/27 at economical speed 15 knots with allows for no reserve of fuel. My position is 039° 47' N. 015° 41' West.
(BONAVENTURE, 1830A/27 to S.O. Force H).

My 1806/27 and 1730/27 not to SHEFFIELD. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL also to carry out air search dawn 28th to locate EMPIRE TROOPER. (S.O. Force H, 1838A/27, to Admty.)

Force K, situation of convoy.

My 2140/26. Visibility during daylight 27th one to 3 miles. No ship sighted by air search.
If convoy is not at 037° N. 016° W. by 0800/28 consider ships have acted in accordance with article 174 (F) of F R 136 (1).
Propose following action daily to avoid further W/T signalling.
(a) DORSETSHIRE to be on convoy route latitude 022° 30' N. by 06 (? Group omitted) /30, zigzagging across route collecting ships and meet Force K in latitude (?024°) 15' N. at 1800/30 turning South at this time if contact has not been made.
(b) Convoy to be ordered by broadcast to rendezvous in 023° 30' N. 020° 10' W. at noon/30.
From North corvettes to rendezvous at noon/30 as in (b) or follow at best speed.
(d) Force K will leave 037° N. 016° W. 0800/28 and follow convoy route at 15 knots.
(e) Request Admiralty issue instructions for FURIOUS rejoin convoy.
All times zone plus 1(one)
(S.O. Force K, 1849/27, to Admty. etc.)
(Reply: See Admty. 1116/28).

/ EMPIRE TROOPER ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).
(Contd.)

EMPIRE TROOPER to make Ponta Delgada.

Pass following to EMPIRE TROOPER.
Steer for Ponta Delgada in San Miguel Island as soon as weather permits.
Escort joining you.
Acknowledge.
(1 S.L. 1916/27 to CYCLAMEN)

Your 1916 received and passed.
(CYCLAMEN, 2000/27, to Admty.)

DUNEDIN, CITY OF CANTERBURY, ESSEX.

Have intercepted DUNEDIN and sent her to join ARGUS convoy. Have CITY OF CANTERBURY ESSEX in company. Rendezvousing with BERWICK position C at 0700 M/28.
(SHEFFIELD, 1953A/27, to S.O's Force H, Force K, BERWICK).

KENYA

KENYA is to join EMPIRE TROOPER. Her position at 1800/27 (correction 2253/27) 040° 40' N. 021° 14' W. course 142° speed 5 knots. EMPIRE TROOPER has been ordered to steer for Ponta Delgada as soon as weather permits. (1 S.L. 1955/27 to C.S.10).

Situation.

EMPIRE TROOPER was in position 41° 20' 21° 30' W. at 1520/27, steering 142° 5 knots. She has been ordered to Ponta Delgada as soon as weather permits.
2. CYCLAMEN is in company with EMPIRE TROOPER and BONAVENTURE and DERBYSHIRE are joining her.
3. KENYA, BERWICK, CYCLAMEN, CLEMATIS, JONQUIL, GERANIUM are to join EMPIRE TROOPER and escort her to Ponta Delgada.
4. If BERWICK can remain with EMPIRE TROOPER, BONAVENTURE can be released for "EXCESS" as soon as BERWICK relieves her, otherwise BONAVENTURE is to remain with EMPIRE TROOPER.
5. If for safety reasons it is necessary to remove passengers from EMPIRE TROOPER this should be done, but noth otherwise.
6. CYCLAMEN cannot transmit by W/T except through EMPIRE TROOPER. (1 S.L. 2021/27, to S.O. Force H, S.O. Force K, C.S.10, BERWICK, CYCLAMEN, CLEMATIS, JONQUIL, GERANIUM.)

BERWICK.

Your 2021/27, not to SHEFFIELD. My position course and speed are 039° 08" N. 015° 43" W. 272° eighteen knots, to join and remain with EMPIRE TROOPER at best speed with fuel available. Expect to meet her 1700Z/28.
(BERWICK, 2300/27 to Admiralty, S.O. Force H S.O. Force K, CYCLAMEN.)

/ BONAVENTURE ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5A and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/12/40).

BONAVENTURE. Reference 2021/27 from Admiralty. Since your lack of fuel will not enable you to reach EMPIRE TROOPER before BERWICK, you are to proceed to Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H 2331A/27, to BONAVENTURE).

Corvettes. Sailed from Ponta Delgada at 2130 G.M.T. 27/12 CLEMATIS (corrupt group) JONQUIL and GERANIUM. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 2202/27).

EMPIRE TROOPER EMPIRE TROOPER 2000, 040° 12' 021° 13' (? 232 degs. or ?254 degs.) 6. (CYCLAMEN 2350/27 to BERWICK, DERBYSHIRE.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Foreign Legion Movement.

French Legion sails in NEURALIA in W.S. five A. M.T. in FORT LAMY speed nine knots sailed independently due Capetown 8/1/41 for onward routeing. 1431/27.

MILFORD. DELHI. ASPHODEL. CALENDULA.

My 1129/26 CHARLES PRATT torpedoed by U-boat. If nothing is seen of derelict by 1700/27 proceed at that time to rendezvous with DELHI escorting TOURREG and CAP DES PALMES and act as A/S escort. Estimated position of DELHI (? at noon on) 30/12. 003° 45'N. 000° 40'W. routed as follows (1) 003° 50'N. 007° 42'w. (11) 004° 28'N. 009° 22'W., speed of advance 7 knots. ASPHODEL and CALENDULA sail from Freetown a.m. 29/12. to rendezvous p.m. 6/1/41 and act as additional escort.
(C. in C. S.A. 1329N/27 to MILFORD-

Operation "Ration".

Gibraltar 1445/27 French armed trawler L'AJACCIENE Passed W. to E. escorting French ship LT. ST. LOUBERT BIE, COMPIEGNE, ELBA, VENDOME. No force available for interception see my 1346/25.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1548/27 to Admty).

RHONE and S/M SFAX reported torpedoed.

Your 1935/26. Confirmed. No British submarine has proceeded into Atlantic from Gibraltar. Naval Attache Madrid already informed on 20/12 and 26/12 that no British submarine was in this Area.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1608/27 to Admty).

Free French Movement, W. Africa.

My telegram M.12 of 23rd. French Liaison Missions established as follows:- (List of appointments).
(20 M.M. Brazzaville 0820/27 to W.O).

PRIMAUGUET. LAMOTTE PICQUET.

Your 0202/27 not to Admiralty. Fr. Cruiser PRIMAUGUET not at Saigon nor in Eastern waters. Rumour may be connected with sister ship Fr. Cruiser LAMOTTE PICQUET now in Saigon but there are no indications projected attack on Noumea which is considered unlikely in view of recent improvement our relations with Indo-China. Request Admiralty report position of Fr. Cruiser PRIMAUGUET.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore 0951Z/27 to ACNB).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Submarine attack on Panama Ship.

Submarine attack Panamanian steamship name not yet ascertained off harbour at 0800 G.M.T./27. Torpedo missed and exploded on shore. Submarine was sighted by me one mile S. Eastward end of breakwater 0815 and at 0830 two miles south of breakwater still on the surface steering west. Further particulars forwarded in due course. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1012/27 to Admty) (H.S. Note:- Submarine was H.M.S. TRIDENT see 28/12).

Unknown submarine attacked Panama steamer near Ponta Delgada Azores a.m./27 with torpedo which exploded on shore (N.A. Lisbon 1747/27 to Admty).

N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada reports submarine attacked Panamanian ship off Harbour 0800 G.M.T. 27/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1831/27 to S. and A. North Atlantic Stn).

N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada reports submarine attacked Panamanian ship off harbour 0800 G.M.T. 27/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 2040/27 to TRIDENT).

Daily Summary Operations.

2 routine A.S. patrols.
(200 Group 1711/27 to Air Min).

Convoy "Excess".

Effort has been made to cover movement of convoy "Excess" through Mediterranean by suggesting to personnel embarked that convoy is proceeding via the Cape. Request you will take similar action in Gibraltar and let it be understood that reason for visit to Gibraltar is dispersal of escort on other duties.
(D.O.D.(F, 2341/27 to F.O.C.N.A).

MOST SECRET.

27.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

GUINE,
COLONIAL.

Your 1727/24 and your 1616/19. Assuning steamship GUINE takes approximately 330 passengers on 30/12 following will remain to take passage in steamship COLONIAL. (Numbers).
(C.in C. S.A. 0135N/27 to Consul Lisbon for N.C.S.O.)

CARNARVON CASTLE.

N.O.i/c Simonstown's 1543/21 and Adty's 1635/2[illegible] considered very desireble that CARNARVON CASTLE should refit in U.K. and that proposal 2(B) of N.O.i/c Simonstown's 1543/21 be adopted if ship can be made reasonably serviceable and efficient for passage. (Arguments).
(C.in C. S.A. 1121N/27 to Adty).

16th Auxiliary A/S Group.

Your 1304/29/11. A/S Whalers KOS 19 KOS 21, KOS 22, KOS 23, and SYVERN are to form the 16th. Auxiliary A/S Group and will operate under C.in C. Med. As soon as practicable after completion they are to be sailed for Alexandria without necessarily waiting for complete group.
(D.D.A/S.W. 1224/27 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

BRITISH PREMIER.

Overdue shipping. BRITISH PREMIER Capetown departure 10/12 due Freetown 25/12 has not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1848/27 to Adty).

W.S.5.A.

The following transports left U.K. 18/12 in convoy W.S.5.A. (10 ships).
The following M.T. ships also sailed in W.S.5.A. (7 ships).
ERNEBANK has since returned to U.K. for repairs. The following M.T. ships which left U.K. 19/12 in Convoy O.B.261 are expected to join W.S.5.A. at Freetown (3 ships).
MANSEER, which also sailed in O.B.Convoy to join W.S.5.A. at Freetown, has since returned to U.K. to adjust cargo stowage.
The following transfers of personnel will be effected en route.
Port Sudan is the destination of French troops which embark in NEURALIA at Freetown, and Durban.
(D.O.D.(F) 1744/27 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

27.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

W.S.5.A. (Contd.)

Following is position in regard to availability of accommodation in vessels of W.S.5.(a) on leaving Freetown. (10 ships). Numbers actually on board are as follows. (Details). Personnel in NEURALIA will disembark Freetown but will be replaced by French Foreign Legion.
(D. of S.T. 2354/27 to C.in C. S.A.)

Raiders, Convoys, Preferred to Hunting.

Your 0830/11/12/40. South Atlantic Station only occupies such a small part of Indian Ocean and South Atlantic forces are normally only in that part escorting convoys that I do not feel able to offer much help. Shore-based aircraft are of great assistance as a deterrent to raider but it is only in South African waters on the South Atlantic Station that these are available and then only in limited areas. The modified system of convoy suggested would involve more ships for escorting than are normally available on the South Atlantic Station. With necessary forces available the suggestion has attraction but if put into force should I think have more ships in a group and cover a wider area. A system of group sailing somewhat similar though less rigid in form and comprising ships within certain speed limits sailing on the same day has been considered on this station but up to the present has not been tried owing to lack of vessels to provide the relatively close cover required. In general the principle followed has been to provide cover on the trade routes where attack is most likely whenever possible, and I agree with C.in C. East Indies in this respect.
(C.in C. S.A. 2145/N/27 to A.C.N.B.)

Mediterranean.

Submarines.

1706/24 request clarification whether TRIUMPH and three U Class are intended to join 1st S.F. on completion of this patrol.
(C.in C. Med. 1033/27 to Adty).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Italian ship. Trieste. Intercepted air letter dated 5/12 indicates Italian ship was at Trieste on that date. (C.in C. A.M.I. 1203/27 to Adty).

Air Report. Operational summary No. 200 to 1200 27/12. Egypt. Day 26/12. Enemy bombed shore batteries and ships at Sollum during early morning. In later attack on Sollum by 10 bombers escorted by 30 fighters. TERROR also bombed without damage or casualties.

TERROR Bombed.

Greece. Day 26/12. 1 Sunderland searched South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping. Sudan. Day 26/12. Submarine search by two Blenheims in Area 18 degs. 00 mins. N., 40° 07' E., 21° 25'N., 38° 36'E. made no sighting.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East 1217/27 to Air Min.)

Italian Troop Transports. Your 0958/27/11. Similar report now received from Turkey stating re-inforcements proceeding from North Adriatic inside Yugoslav Islands to Albania. Can you confirm.
(N.I.D.3. 1225/27 to N.A. Belgrade).

Personnel. A.T. 1618/5 stated that 500 young ratings would be sent to Mediterranean in December request information whether these are en route.
(C.in C. Med. 1433/27 to Adty).

7th C.S. 7th C.S. leaves Alexandria early A.M. 28/12 for Kaso Strait.
(Capt: (S) I 1650/27 to PANDORA).

Reserves of Aircraft. Reply to Adty 1324/23. (Air Ministry 1640/27] See Mediterranean Vol.)

Air Report Malta. Secret combined services report Malta to 1700 G.M.T. 27/12 no air activity owing to weather. No Naval or military item.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 1700/27 to Air Min).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 27.12.40. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

B.N. Personnel. Chiefs of Staff ordered despatch of 4 Officer 60 O.R.S. of No.1. special service BN to Malta for employment as required in raids against railways on Italian Coast. Personnel sailed on BONAVENTURE after completing seven days course in use of submarine punts. Party will be at your disposal, please inform G.O.C. Malta. (D.C.O. 1835/27 to C.in C. Med.)

Chartering of Ships in Black Sea. My 1201/5. Have you any further information regarding the progress of these negotiations? (D.T.D. 1838/27 to N.A. Angora).

Greek Submarine, Capture, Enemy Routes, Brindisi, Valona. Greek submarine has captured prisoners from small coaster off Valona and found on the captain full instructions for entering Brindisi and Valona also something about Durazzo. With the help of these instructions he claims that he obtained three hits on a convoy off Saseno. Captain is kept solitary to reduce leakage but possibility of this information being incorrect in few days due to changes is realised. Coaster left Brindisi 1700/21 with pilot and when past nets had written orders to steer 036° to point Z then 049° to point Y then 049° to point X one mile to point A. Point Z is 2000 metres Semaphore Station 049 degs. Point Y is 3½ miles Semaphore Station 049 degs. Point X is 11½ miles Semaphore Station 049 degs. Instructions for Valona steer for Point A on courses ? placed between 080 degrees and 100 degs. thence 090 degs. to point B then further particulars "on Cape Linguetta and San Giovanni point and then to anchorage". Point A four point nine miles Saseno ? base 280 degrees. Point B two miles ? barrier light San Nicolo harbour Saseno Island 063°. Prisoners stated coaster steered from temporary point B to Cape Linquetta and then coasted to San Giovanni off (corrupt group) Gate whilst nets extended North East and have large buoys and long cylinders. Prisoners gave some information about Durazzo (corrupt groups) further enquiry. Captain is timid but may be made use of and appears open to bribery.
(N.A.Athens 2253/27 to C.in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

27.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

REGULUS. A.F.O. 647/40 para. 3 and my 1615/9 (1615/10 intended - H.M.S. REGULUS three days overdue) not to all addresses, recommend date for paying off REGULUS, 12/40. (C.in C. Med. 2335/27 to Adty).

East Indies.

CRICKET PROTECTOR. Cochin 26/12 arrival and departure CRICKET PROTECTOR for Bombay. (S.O.(I) Bombay 0604Z/27).

CAPETOWN is to leave Colombo at 0400Z/29 and proceed to position 002° North 080° East and then proceed towards position 005° North 092° East. Speed throughout 12 knots. (C.in C. E.I. 0606Z/27).

SYDNEY, S.W.4.B. Request may be informed whether SYDNEY will be available to escort S.W.4.B. leaving Suez. (C.in C. E.I. 0608Z/27 to C.in C. Med.)

CERES, COLOMBO. CERES to leave Kismayu patrol to arrive Mombassa a.m. 29/12. COLOMBO to leave Mombasa p.m. 28/12 and proceed to patrol off Kismayu. (C.in C. E.I. 0620Z/27 to CERES, COLOMBO.)

Japanese Ships, Examination. Can reply now be given to my 0618/12. F.O.C.R.I.N.'s 0559/24 refers. (0654Z/27).

B.N.12. Troop Convoy. (1) B.N.12. 0800Z/27, escort LEANDER (route). EGRA, TAKLIWA, VARSOVA all for Port Sudan. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0844/Z/27 to Adty).

NETRAVATI, SHROPSHIRE. Aden arrivals 27/12 (Corrupt group) NETRAVATI (? from North) 0700Z. Departure 0830Z SHROPSHIRE for Mombasa. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0851Z/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

445. Add to my 0851/27 (? route) 013° 051°, 011° 053°, 003° North 050° , 002° South 299°.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1531Z/27).

BARBETTE, BARNET. 396. My 1032/16/12.* Sailing of BDV BARBETTE and BDV BARNET has been delayed owing to machinery defects in installation ship.
(C.in C. E.I. 0852Z/27).
* 1152/16 intended.

Whalers. Request approval of my 1210/5/11 reference renaming whalers.
(C.in C. E.I. 0924Z/27 to Adty).

LEANDER, B.N.12. Bombay departure 1115Z/27 LEANDER Ocean escort to B.N.12.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 1116Z/27).

B.S.11½. Convoy sailing telegram B.S.11½. 10.00 G.M.T. 27/12 022 30'N., 037 07' E., 020 21' 037 54' W of Sanganeb reef to Port Sudan arriving 09.00/30. Escort ships:- CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH, Motor transport and stores. DUNERA, Personnel ETHIOPIA, Personnel and CITY OF FLORENCE, Motor transport and stores.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1204/27, to Adty).

SHOREHAM, CALEDON, INDUS, AUCKLAND, EL WAFI. Aden arrivals 1100Z/27. SHOREHAM 1300Z/27 CALEDON, INDUS, AUCKLAND. Kamaran arrival 25/12 departure 26/12 on patrol EL WAFI.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1335Z/27).

Aden Air Report. Summary 198 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1400 27/12. 4 small vessels in Assab Harbour in position usually occupied by A.A. ship. Latter not seen.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1804/27 to Air Ministry).

Cabled. Cable and Wireless report. Bushire Cable intercepted. Wireless transmission only to Iran, Irak and Bahrein.
(Duty Officer T.C.B. 1800/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

CORNWALL. CORNWALL sailed. E.T.A. Simonstown 1000B/28. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1920B/27).

China.

Moller Line, Japanese Interference. Re boarding of CARMEN MOLLER 22/12. JESSIE MOLLER prevented from sailing 25/12, and attitude of Japanese. (N.L.O. Shanghai to C.in C. China 0859Z/27 and 0901Z/27. Original in lion copy only).

A/C. Your 0822/8. Walrus aircraft (? complete) is being shipped uncrated in Oiler PEARLEAF sailing Singapore about 12/1. Remainder of Aircraft wings crated undercarriage and tail plane off, fuselage on cradle together with spare engines are being shipped in ORMA sailing Singapore about 5/1/41. Your 0600/26 spares available under consideration. (Commodore, Malaya, 0817Z/27 to C.in C. E.I).

Indo-China Trade. Your 0823/26. Request report whether this development is due to agreement between yourself and Captain Jouan. You will have seen from Foreign Office telegram Nos. 42 and 43 to Consul General Haiphong (Nos. 53 and 54 to C.O.I.C. Singapore for C.in C. China) the general line of policy desired to be adopted towards negotiations with Indo-China. Further instructions will follow but meanwhile it is requested you will not enter into any binding arrangement in view of the broader issues involved. (D.T.D. 1846/27 to C.in C. China).

Malaya offer of Australian Troops. Ref. offer of reinforcements and certain munitions made by Australia. Australian Defence Minister and Chief of Gen. Staff have spent four days here en route to visit Australians in Middle East. After having seen telegraph appreciation G.H.Q.F.E/40 of 5 Dec. and your 94149 (M.O.2) of 23rd they sent on their own initiative cables to Australia recommending despatch of Bridge group and munitions already offered. Following is gist of cable from Sturdee to Northcott. (begins) Impressed by appreciation of C.in C., Far East despatched

/Chiefs

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Contd.)

Malaya, offer of Australian Troops. (Contd.)

Chiefs of Staff early in December. Best method preventing war spreading to Far East is firm strong attitude here at earliest date. Retention Malaya vital continued effective maintenance Middle East via Cape. Consider brigade group and ancillary troops should be despatched earliest date shipping can be arranged. We are considering question eventual despatch whole eighth division to Malaya but this depends on date despatch India division shipping and accommodation. Unquestionably deterrent effect whole Australian Division in Malaya at early date of greatest importance and greater value to Empire than if left in Australia despite training difficulties. Essential send initially best brigade commander. If sufficient shipping not available at once essential proportion maintenance and medical troops accompany initial convoy. Confer C. in C., Far East re details not clear. (Ends).
Following is gist of cable from Spender to Army Melbourne, (Begins) Despatch stores and equipment to Singapore earliest possible date. Early despatch three inch Mortars most desirable. Other stores not to be held up if difficulty in shipping three point seven guns which understand from War Office cable to be diverted to Malaya. As Australian Minister of War is urging Australian Government to send reinforcements forthwith it appears only a matter of days before Australia agrees. Please inform me as soon as agreement is given so that direct contact can be started. In the mean time the necessary plans etc. are under way.
(C.in C. Far East 1028/27 to W.O.)

MOST SECRET.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Nauru
Shelled.

No.273, 27th/12.
Following telegram has been received from Acting Resident Commissioner, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony. (Begins).
27th December Unnumbered. Nauru heavily shelled this morning. Residents of danger areas on Ocean Island being evacuated and preparation made for destruction of secret documents. (Ends). Wellington and Melbourne informed.
(High Commissioner, Western Pacific No. T.O.O./27, to Colonial Office).

At 1940Z/26 Nauru heavily shelled by one enemy raider. Great material damage. Oil fuel destroyed, no casualties. Raider had Japanese name and markings. (A.C.N.B. 0441/27 to Admty. etc.)

My 0441/27. Prime Minister Australia today issued statement world publication following points:-
A. Shelled defenceless land people
B. Used Neutral colours
C. Nauru not fortified under terms Mandate known to enemy.
D. World will view attack with contemptuous disgust.
(A.C.N.B., 0449/27)

My 0441/27 and my 0546/27 to last addressee only. Following received from Admiralty. Reporting Officer, Nauru. Raider named KANKO MARU arrived off Island before daylight and using morse lamp at 0550 local time signalled Nauru (repeated several times) do not use your wireless or I will shoot the mast down. I am going to shoot the phosphate loading jettys. This signal was complied with to save destruction human life and property. Raider opened fire at 0640 local time and shelled at close range cantilever loading jetty, all oil storage tanks cantilever shore storage bin mooring gear store and other phosphate buildings. Using pom-poms destroyed morring buoys. Various portions shells found indicate 5.9 inch used. Oil fuel still burning. W/T Stn. intact. Power station intact. Private houses not fired on. Raider had mark on side of hull and flew Nazi star at gaff and not as stated in my first message ends. (A.C.N.B., 2040Z/27).

/ Survivors from
Raider Sinkings. .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. (Contd.)

Survivors from Raider Sinkings.

My 12435/25 (survivors of ships sunk by enemy raiders picked up from island in Pacific waters). Propose including names of ships concerned. In view of approaching arrival of survivors in Australia would be glad of early reply. (A.C.N.B. 0835/27, to Admty.)

Your 0835/27. Concur.
(D.f.D. 2052/27).

My 19002/26. From interrogation at Port Moresby of six responsible survivors.

TOKYO MARU

(1) TOKYO MARU is KULMERLAND (description) No armament except seaplane.

MANYO MARU

(2) MANYO MARU cargo passenger accommodation twenty. (description) Estimated speed 21 knots.

MARVIK

(3) Nicknamed MARVIK, 6000 tons (description) Each raider carries at least one seaplane. Raiders moved in company from position of RANGITANE 200 miles east then to Kermadec thence to 025° south 177° east thence between New Hebrides and Loyal Island thence near San Cristobal thence Nauru thence to anchorage in Marshall Is. thence near Nauru thence Emirau. Third raider prisoners not landed at Emirau. Captain proposed to land prisoners Nauru condition being destruction of everything essential to life. Captain Upton RANGITANE considered shell fragment larger than six inches.
(A.C.N.B., 07302/27).

MONGHAI

Arrival Auckland 0545Z/27.
(S.O.(I) Wellington 05022/27)

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA will be escorted well clear of Fiji. Request you will arrange transfer of bullion.
(N.Z. Naval Board 0915/27 to Govr. Suva).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ACHILLES. German Ship ACHILLES sailed from Vigo 2345/26. (Consul Vigo, 0756/27 to Admty.)

ACHILLES of 1000 tons left Vigo 2345/26. (D.D.I.C. 1156/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ACHILLES sailed from Vigo 2345/26. (V.A.S. 1201/27).

ELSA EISENFRONT. Returned to Kobe 25/12. (Capt-on-Staff, Singapore, 09472/27 to Admty.)

OSSAG. My 1636/26.
OSSAG left Roumania 29/8/39 for Egypt. Put into Trieste where she was arrested by Shell Company. Arrest refused by Italian courts. Cargo presumably still Shell Company's. If so might be able to ship (? in) Spain. Please inform M.E.W. (Asst. N.A. Madrid, 2033/27 to D.N.I.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

DANDOLO. Italian S.S. DANDOLO sailing from Algiers for Sfax to load phosphates for Italy. (Madrid, 0900/27 to Admty.)

MAYA. Departure. MAYA in ballast Batoum. (Varna, 1615/27).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.12.1940. Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

WAIOTIRA (Torpedoed 26/12) — Your 2222/26. Two tugs have sailed (C.in C. W.A. 0318/27 to MASHONA)

My 2222/26. Ship sank 0605 after internal explosion. All saved. 1 dead. E.t.a. Clyde 0830/28.
(MASHONA 0705/27 to Admty.)
Reported in position 058° 05' N., 017° 10'W. 2222/26.
Propellor out of action. Mashona standing by reports salvage possible. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0822/27 to SUPERMAN and SEAMAN).

ARDANESHAN — (British 4940 tons). Following read 59° 16' N., 20° 27' W. ARDANESHAN torpedoed (Lyness 1802/27).
Detach one destroyer to proceed to ARDANESHAN torpedoed 59° 16' N., 20° 27'W. at 1902/27. (C.in C. W.A. 1932/27 to ACTIVE)
X; 1802/27 intended
My 1932/27. Destroyer detached to report name position course and speed (C.in C. W.A. 0818/28).
Your 0818/28 ANTELOPE detailed position course and speed 059° 01'E., 020° 06' W. 332° 20 knots.
(ANTELOPE, 0900/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

Submarines Reported.

1714. — D/F, probable U-Boat in area 25 miles radius from 53° N., 13° 20' W. (D.D.I.C. 1804/27).

2214. — D/F, Italian U-boat within 30 miles of line joining 41° N., 14° W. and 38° N., 16° W. (D.D.I.C. 2252/27).

Position of enemy S/M. — Ref. Admty. A.F. position 59° 16' N., 20° 27' at 1902/27 (D.D.I.C. 1951/27).

There are 3 U-boat between 53° 30' N. and 56° N. 15° W. and 16° W. (D.D.I.C. 1455/27)
Italian.

Estimated U/B dispositions.
1 possibly between Madeira and Gibraltar.
2 to eastward of Azores.
2 possibly in Bay of Biscay bound for Gironde.
1 between 55° N. and 53° 30' N. 15° W. and 17° W.1712/26.
1 between 54° N. and 55° N. 15° W. and 18° W. 1929/26.
1 in 53° 41' N. 16° 08' W. 1025/27.
1 more in N.W. Approaches similar area.

German
1 in Freetown area.
1 about 300 miles N.E. of Azores.
1 in 38° 12' N. 17° 25' W. 1906/26.
1 about 59° 30' N. 15° W - 17° W. 1225/26.
1 between 57° 30' N. and 58° 30' N. west of 20° W. 1221/27.
1 may be homeward bound north about position unknown. (D.D.I.C. 1354/27.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.12.1940.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

A/C attack 1045.

Am over enemy S/M in 53° 41' N., 16° 3'W. S/M sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C ? duty B 1025/27 to Oban) From Duty B. Have attacked S/M with bombs? level Dive ? not known S/M course 145° still searching (A/C ? duty B 1045/27 to Oban).
A/C report U-boat on surface 053° 41' N., 016° 08' W. at 1025. (C.in C. W.A. 1114/27 to HIGHLANDER)
My 1130/27 am searching for U-boat reported by A/C. (HIGHLANDER 1146/27 to C.in C. W.A.)

1240
A/C attack

A/C reports ? estimate attacked suspect U-boat 055° 51' N., 008° 38' W. at 1240/27 (C.in C. W.A. 1550/27).
One S/M submerged bearing 270° distance 3 miles course 180 position 56° 20' N., 7° 00' E. at 1235 (Duty Y ?? 1304/27 to 18 Reconnaissance Group H.Q.)
Enemy S/M previously reported has dived. Have attacked with bombs dive, no release 1240.
(Duty Y ?? 1314/27 to 18 Reconnaissance Group H.Q.)
Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 180° speed 10 knots. Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in position 56° 20'N. 7° 00' E. at 1245. (Duty Y, 1321/27 to 18 Rec. Group H.Q.'s).

95

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.12.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Increasing Endurance of Destroyers

Your 2147/20. Suggest consideration be given to provision of convoy A/S escorts of greater endurance by removing one boiler from VIMY and fitting internal fuel tank. VIMY has been running since September on two boilers and is due for complete re-boilering on 1st Jan. before joining C. in C., W.A. Estimate that about 30% increase in endurance could be obtained by fitting tank in forward boiler room to height of lower deck if No 1 boiler is removed. (C. in C., H.F. 1201/28 to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 1130/28. (D.C. 1155/28) At 2330/28 (D.C. 2347/28)

Movements

MANCHESTER CITY — My 1006/25. Complement of firemen complete. Ship to leave Glasgow a.m./30 to comply with F.O.I.C. Greenock 1230/27. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 0942/28.

BATH — Arrived Port Z.A. 0930. (TRELAWNEY 0952/28)

EGLINTON — Sailed Sheerness 1027. (C. in C., Nore 1140/28) Arrived Harwich 1510 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1605/28)

MAURITIUS, VIMY, BULLDOG. — Sailed from Scapa to escort MAURITIUS to Clyde. (A.C.O.S. 1150/28)

Northern Patrol — Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers (F.O.C.O.S. 1539/28)

VENOMOUS — Arrived Clyde (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2340/28)

KASHMIR, JERSEY, JUPITER — Arrived 1058 (C. in C., W.A., 0008/29) Sailed JERSEY and JUPITER 1523 (C. in C., W.A., 0008/29)

Operations

Anti-Raider Patrol in Iceland Faroes Passage

Your 2301/27. A/S Air Escort of one Hudson will be provided from 1300 to dark today (C. in C., Rosyth 0306/28 to C. in C., H.F.)

NELSON will pass through 063° 50' N., 003° 55' W., at 1200/29 steering 00° speed of advance 15 knots.

/If absence.....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Anti-Raider in Iceland Faroes Passage.

In absence of any information regarding enemy EDINBURGH is to R/V with NELSON in above position.

If contact is not made during daylight/29th EDINBURGH is to return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1149/28 to EDINBURGH.)

Sailed from Scapa C in C. H.F. in NELSON, screened by BEDOUIN, TARTAR, BEAGLE, SIKH at 1426.(A.C.O.S. 1535/28.)

Your 2017/26. 6 Battle A/C are bombed up and available at short notice if weather permits from daylight tomorrow. (F.O. Iceland 1702/28 to C. in C. H.F.)
2 A/S Trawlers leave Kirkwall 1430/28 to maintain an A/S Patrol between Muckle Flugga and 61° 51' N. 0° 54'W., returning to Kirkwall AM/2. (A.C.O.S. 1234/28 to C. in C. H.F.) Expect arrive in HOOD with 4 Destroyers at 0830/29. (F.O.C. 1st. B.C.S. 2119/28 to A.C.O.S.)

Operation. F. V. 1.

Will be carried out between 2000 and 2230 tonight. One A/C with Flares and one with Bombs. (C. in C. Nore 1059/28.)

Operation H. H.

Request you order D.S to be carried out as convenient when a minimum of 4 Destroyers become available for Force. (C. in C. H.F. 1151/28 to B.C.1.)

Operation. H.C.

M.T.B's 69 and 70 and Trawlers ALEXANDRITE and BOTANIC will operate from 2130/28 till 0230/29 between No. 1 Buoy and A Buoy on anti-minelaying operation H.C. (V.A. Dover 1732/28 to Adty.)

Submarines.

O.25.

To leave Patrol 1600/30, remaining North of 57° N. until 0300/1. Route to Gap A. (S.9. 0931/28.)

L. 55.

Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow (A.C.O.S 1516/28.)

MINERVE.

Arrived with STELLA POLARIS (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1324/28.)

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1457/28.)

MOST SECRET.

28. 12. 40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Contd.

Positions.

Submarines.
For following 24 hours at 0800/29.
(V.A.S. 1502/28.)

SEVERN.

Propose carry out 4 day A/S Patrol between 53° N. and 59° N. and between 20° and 24° W. after leaving Plymouth.
(V. A. S. 1647/28. to C. in C. W.A.)

SEAWOLF.

Sy 1130/31. Intend sail unescorted at 1515/30 to R/V in 110° Start Point 3 miles at 1030/31. (S.S. 1907/28.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Additional Patrols ordered today: STAB., SEVERN.(C. in C. Rosyth 0750/28.)

2 Blenheims leave Dyce 0900 to patrol to Flamborough Head and return.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0740/28.)
Following Daily air patrols ordered 29th to 31st inclusive:
(A) From Sullom Voe to Videro (62° 22' N, 06° 30' W, then on a course 011° to 67° N. then to Sullom Voe direct.
(B) From Sullom Voe to 62° 07' N. 07° 40' W, then to 64° 14' N, 14° 38' W, and return on same track.(C. in C. Rosyth 1708/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

Bordeaux.

217 Sqdn., to attack tonight U-Boats in No. 1. Basin at Bordeaux. Alternative Target, Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1302/28.)

Enemy Air Activity.

CONVOY HOOK.

Being attacked by A/C in 51° 40' N. 1° 18' E. (Lowestoft 1046/28.) 4 Bombs dropped. No hits (WOOLSTON 1054/28.)

Birmingham.

Details of Damage in Air-Raid 16/16.
(C.C.H. Birmingham 1140/28.)

Southampton.

HORSEMAN, GARNET, and Emergency Destroyer Damaged.

Single A/C dropped 6 H.E. Bombs at 1500 today. Thorneycroft report HORSEMAN (Destroyer) cut nearly in two, Emergency Destroyer minor damage by direct hit, and Tug GARNET in sinking condition by near miss. One man killed in Old Dock (P.C.O. Southampton 1710/28 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

Plymouth. During air raid between 1900 and 2000 today 7 H.E. and a large number of incendiary bombs were dropped in civil areas. Small fire in laundry of Naval Hospital but no damage to other naval establishments. (C. in C. W.A. 0107/29 to Adty.)

Mining.

Operation H. I. H. Your 1134/26. Haven 1043/29. C. in C. W.A.) Intend sail from Milford (ADVENTURE 0937/28 to

Portsmouth. Eastern entrance closed except through Looe Channel. Suspected A/C mining. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0950/28.)

S.N.6. and S.N. 65. Propose sail 0915/2 to lay S.N.6. on PA/3 and S.N.65 on AR/4. Of 6th Division probably only BATH will be available for this. Request I be informed if 5 other Destroyers and Covering Force can be made available (C.A.M.L. 1046/28 to Adty.) See Operations, Volume.

Loch Ewe. My 1907/5/9 and Adty. 1714/27/12. Consider that thorough Magnetic sweeping will be necessary before extensive use is made of this Port. (A.C.O.S.1119/28 to Adty.)

Thames Gate. Precautions for Ships entering. (C. in C. Nore 1451/28 to LOWESTOFT.)

Sheerness. At 1130/28 M/S Trawler SUNLIGHT detonated one Mine with S.A. Gear in 296° Nore Light Vessel 9.8 cables. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1511/28 and 1092/29.)

Falmouth. RENOVELLE damaged. RENOVELLE (Auxiliary Patrol Motor Boat), exploded Mine, presumed acoustic, in 50° 4' 8" N. 5° 30' 30"W. No casualties, but vessel damaged and towed into Newlyn. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1734/28 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28. 10. 40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMAND.

Mining. Contd.

Liverpool. One Mine, apparently acoustic, damaged Coaster LOCHER about 1 mile N.N.E. of Bar Light Vessel. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1950/28 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Vessel. My 0300/28. Position probably between 61° and 63° 30' N. and 20° to 25° W. (D.D.I.C. 0922/28.)

Unidentified Vessel. From Fair Isle. One small slow vessel Bearing 144° 15 miles, steering 180°, at 0150/28. Not identified. (A.C.O.S. 1055/28 to Adty.)

1 Tanker and 2 Destroyers. At 1140 in 61° 35' N. 5° E. steering 315° at 10 knots. (C. in C. Rosyth 1204/28 to SEALION) (V.A.S. 1219/28 to S/M's Area B.

Kiel Canal. Kiel Canal announced opened from 27th to vessels with beam not exceeding. (? 71) feet. (N.A. Stockholm 1617/28 to D.N.I.)

E. Boat. Suspected near 54.E. Buoy at 2030, steering N.E. (C. in C. Nore 2137/28 to MOLINTON, HEMBOR.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22. 12. 40.
Internal.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CAPE ARGONA)
(A/S Trawler)
H.A.B.WYNN.
(H/C. Trawler)

In collision at 0400/22 in Granton Road. Both damaged above waterline.
(N.O.I.C. Leith 1104/22.)

CROCUS.

(Corvette) In collision in Mersey with s.s. SALUTA. Badly holed. Will require docking for at least 3 weeks.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1620/20.)

VALORUS.

Have been in collision with Trawler LIBYAN in Sheerness Harbour. Side cut open to main deck level at 38 station.
(VALORUS 1710/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

S.C.16. Dispersed, heavy weather. Routed through (positions) (C.in C. W.A. 0036/28 0136/28 to ACTIVE, ANTELOPE, GEORGETOWN, HEATHER, FICOTEE.)

F.S.72. Sailed 0200. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0205/28 to Admty.) 12 ships, 5 additional from Middlesbrough. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0951/28)

H.X.97. Meet H.X.97, 22 ships, escort HEPATICA, 1000/30. Route (C.in C. W.A. 1230/28 to WHITEHALL, WINCHELSEA, VISCOUNT, VANQUISHER, GENTIAN, RHODODENDRON). Cancel my 1345/27. Route from new R/V. (D.T.D. 1236/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

H.X.100. List of ships (Senr. Canadian N.O. Halifax, 1246/28 1247/28 1735/28 to Admty.). Cancel Sections (1), (3) and (4) in my 1256/24. Route (D.T.D. 1259/28 to C.O.A.C. Halifax). Route (N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1604/28).

O.B. 268. 1000/1/1/41. Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1248/28 to Admty.)

F.N.70 (F))
F.N.71 (S)) My 1217/20, F.N. 20(F) postponed 24 hours. F.N.20(F) and F.N.71(S) will both sail from Thames at 0830/29. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1351/28 to Admty.)

S.C.16. Your 1130/28. Estimated position 2000/28 routed as in my 0136/28. Endeavour to R/V with convoy at daylight. (C.in C. W.A. 1510/28 to ACTIVE).

O.A.N. 48. 13 ships. E.t.a's (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1545/28 to Admty).

F.S. 73. List of ships and destinations (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1556/28 to Admty.)

Pilots for Convoy. Earlier in war trouble experienced through ships from convoys racing for pilots at the Bar Light Vessel. Overcome by requesting Commodores to form convoys in single line ahead and increase distance apart of ships. Complaints again received - instructions to Commodores etc., from N.C.S.O's at Convoy Assembly Ports abroad. (D.T.D. 1615/28 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

F.N. 70 (fast)
F.N. 71 (slow) Intend sail about 0915/29 or as soon as sweeping completed, escorts VERSATILE and VALORous. F.N.71 (slow) escorts LOWESTOFT and WOOLSTON will sail immediately after F.N.70. (C.in C. Nore, 1638/28 to N.C.S.O. Southend)

O.B.O. 268. 0400/29, 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1701/28).

/ H.X.101. .....

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys. (Contd.)

Shipping. (Contd.)

H.X.101. Positions and route. (D.T.D. 1834/28 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

H.X.97. Meet (C.in C. W.A. 1918/28 to WHITEHALL WINCHELSEA, VISCOUNT, VANQUISHER, RHODODENDRON).

F.N.70. My 1217/20 and 1351/28 amend close escort to read VERSATILE, GARTH. (C.in C. Rosyth 2003/28).

H.N.48. List 10 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2347/28).

BEAVERDALE Your 1842/27. BEAVERDALE route. Paravanes are not to be used in home waters. (D.T.D. 1704/28 to N.C.S.O. Belfast).

H.X.96. Arrived complete. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1300/28).

H.N. 48. Route. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1420/28).

W.N.62. Code MUTUAL.
1200/30. Escorts KING SOL (S O) SOUTHERN GEM 6 ships.
W N O code "limited" to R V with MUTUAL at 1130/31 in 56° 52' N. 7° 09' W.
(N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1029/28).

W.N.60. Scapa departure CURACOA at 1013 to escort W.N.60. (A.C.O.S. 1052/28 to Admty.)

Your 0136/28 for passing to LADY MADALEINE. My position 1100 will be 054° 33' north 016° 32' west course 238° speed 12 knots visibility 2 miles GEORGETOWN in company. Intend altering 068° at dark and search at daylight. Due to oil fuel must meet convoy by 1000 tomorrow if speed made good on homeward trip only 7 knots. Request instructions.
(ACTIVE, 1139/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

O.B.205. WHITEHALL, VANQUISHER have not joined convoy. Request air assistance in making contact. My position is 057° 35' N. 010° 06' W.
(WHITEHALL, 1201/28).

Your 1201. Aircraft will assist you.
(C.in C. W.A. 1422/28 to WHITEHALL).

H.O.50.
H.O.51. Your 1440/27 SCARBOROUGH will escort H.O.50 FOLKESTONE H.O.51.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1240/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ O.O. 48. .....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys. (Contd.)

O.C.48.

Intend including TIERCEL in Clyde portion of O.C.48.
Sailing 2230/29 and not to R/V as in C.in C. W.A's 1128/27.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1244/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

Arrived H.M.Y. TIERCEL.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1330/28).

F.S.74.

Act as additional escort to F.S.74 Senior Officer WESTON which sails from Methil at 1400 tomorrow Sunday. Part company at Junction of Q.Z.Y.154 and 7 Q.Z.F. thence proceeding by 7 Q.Z.F. to Harwich. (C.in C. Rosyth 1335/28, to WORCESTER).

Convoy anchoring in vicinity of the Nore Light Vessel until visibility improves. Am anchored 3 cables 090 degs. from the Nore Light Vessel.
(LOWESTOFT 1350/28 to C.in C. Nore).

My 1350, convoy now entering.
(LOWESTOFT 1431/28).

O.B.266.

Pass one full route to steamship E.F. Johnson who is to act as Cdre. SALUTA has returned to harbour after collision. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1322/28 to CLARKIA).

Arrived and sailed CLARKIA escorting O.B. 266.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1429/28).

O.C.N.48.

1525/28. H.M.T. YORK CITY. Thirteen.
(N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1530/28).

C.W.21.

My 1228/27. Last paragraph.
Destroyer. BERKELEY, CLEVELAND,
A/S Trawlers, LE TIGRE, COVENTRY CITY,
LADY PHILOMENA, M/S Trawlers, ASH, BAY,
WALNUT and CEDAR if ready.
M.B.E. Vessels, HASLEMERE, ROEBUCK,
SAMBUR, PINTADE, PINGOUIN.
M.L.'s 113. 116. 117. 130. 165.
171 and Chasseur 43.
Number of M/V's in Convoy - 6.
(C.in C. Nore, 1338/28).

/ O.B.265 ....
H.X.97.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.265.
H.X.97.

Add to my 1532/28. (Estimated positions 2000 tonight).
O.B.265 058° 32' North 011° 39' West 325°.
H.X.97 covered by fleet units 058° 50'North 025° 20' West. (A.C.O.S. 1705/28).

H.X.97.

Your 1133/28. Owing to much bad weather low visibility convoy is widely scattered and I am not now in touch with Commodore. Present weather thick fog. HEPATICA lost touch with convoy on 22/12 and has probably not rejoined. Probably majority of ships being out of touch with Commodore are following route through 056° 44' north 026° 40' west 059° 05' North 016° 32' west and 057° 08' north 010° 00' west which appears to have been given them in case of separation. Estimated that most ships will cross meridian 023° west during forenoon tomorrow 29/12. My position course and speed at 1800 G.M.T./28, 057° 46' north 028° 10' west 062° 9 knots. Admiralty 1905/23 has not yet been passed to Commodore.
(WORCESTERSHIRE, 1745Z/28 to C.in C. W.A.)

F.S.75.

Act as additional escort for F.S.75 Senior Officer LONDONDERRY which sails from Methil at 2300 tomorrow Sunday. On arrival at Nore proceed as ordered by C.in C. Nore. (C.in C. Rosyt, 1800/28 to VESPER).

F.N.70.

My 1636 not to D 21 or GARTH.
GARTH is to replace VALOROUS as escort with F.N.70. She is to sail as ordered by VERSATILE tomorrow Sunday.
(C.in C. Nore 1810/28, to D.21, GARTH).

W.N.60.

Convoy W.N.60 now passing Rattray Head, speed 8.5 knots. (BLACKPIX, 1830/28).

S.C.16.

Have searched throughout day (ARDANBHAN, torpedoed, see 27/12) in poor visibility no sign of wreckage or boat. 150 tons fuel remaining, expected time of arrival Londonderry daylight 30th to fuel before joining S.C.16. My position course and speed 069 degs. 18' North 020 degs. 11' West 120 degs. 14½ knots.
(ANTELOPE, 1830/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ W.N. 61. ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys (Contd.) Shipping. (Contd.)

H.N.61. Time of sailing 2111/28. H.M. Trawlers RUMBA (S O) and SALTERELLO 18 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2150/28).

H.N.57. Your 1757/28/12. VESTRA sailed 0945/23 in company H.F.A. PETROBUS H.M.T. STALBERG to R.V. with W.N. 57 off Duncansby Head at 1500. Convoy was three hours ahead of time. Ships instructed proceed independently destination if fail contact convoy. VESTRA destination Leith. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall, 2206/28)

F.N.70. You are to sail tomorrow Sunday 29th to join as additional escort F.N.70 fast due sunk light vessel approximately 1445. Break off North of Sheringham so as to return to Harwich before dark. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2320/28, to WIDGEON).

F.N.48. 2230/28. H.M.T.'s INDIAN STAR, FOXTROT. Additional escort JASON. 11 ships. 1 ship for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2345/28).

Convoy Conferences. Suggested that Masters of Merchant ships who have been running their ships in convoy since the outbreak of war are growing tired of convoy conferences. These are essential, but the interest of Masters might retained -
(a) by pointing instructions with reasons and giving examples from recent attacks on convoys,
(b) by attempting to give some tit-bits of information at each conference with due regard for security,
(c) by frequently inviting the opinion of masters on current questions of interest.
Admiralty control of Merchant shipping can only run smoothly if the Merchant Navy feels that the control is exercised in a spirit of service and understanding. N.C.S.O's and D.E.M.S. Officers are a natural channel for passing on. Admiralty would welcome constructive suggestions by Masters.
(D.T.D. 1853/28 to N.C.S.O's)

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Troop Convoys.

BOSSO
EUMAEUS,
escort
OTTAWA

Intend sailing BOSSO and EUMAEUS escorted by OTTAWA 1600/29 speed 11 knots to rendezvous with SALOPIAN and GARLAND in position 270 degrees Overay 6 miles at 0900/30 thence in accordance with Admiralty's 1835/27 not to all addressees, speed 14 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1038/28).

My 1038/28 Secret positions
(1) 58° 00' N. 10° 00' W. LARK
(2) 59° 00' N. 15° 00' W. PANSY
(3) 60° 00' N. 20° 00' W. ROBIN.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1245/28).

SALOPIAN escorted by GARLAND leaves Clyde 0015/30 to rendezvous with ABOSSO and EUMAEUS escorted by OTTAWA as ordered in F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1038/28 (route) SALOPIAN keeps W/T watch as for Western Patrol throughout passage.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1830/28 to SALOPIAN, GARLAND and 1832/28 to Western Patrol).

W.S.5B.

My 1539/25. Movement of WINDSOR CASTLE is cancelled. Ship will now load in Liverpool.
MONARCH OF BERMUDA due Liverpool to-day should be diverted to Avonmouth, from which port she will sail with Convoy W.S. 5B.
(D.O.D.(H) 1832/28, to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider.

(After BERWICK's Action with Raider on 25/~~21~~12).

Corvettes. CLEMATIS with JONQUIL and GERANIUM proceeded at 2330 G.M.T. as instructed in your 2021/27.
(CLEMATIS 0100Z/28 to Admty).

DUNCAN, HERO. H.M. Ships DUNCAN, HERO, return Gibraltar.
(S.O. Force H, 0855A/28 to Capt: D.13.)

CYCLAMEN's 2350/27. My position, source and speed 038° 35'N., 018° 10'W 262° 13 knots. to intercept EMPIRE TROOPER 0900 A/29. Fuel remaining DUNCAN 206 HERO 193.
(Capt: D.13 0901A/28 to S.O. Force H.)

DERBYSHIRE. Proceed up Meridian 025° 30' W., to latitude 60° N. R/V for inward A/S escort will be signalled later.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1010/28 to DERBYSHIRE).

Visibility no air search. RENOWN defect. Persistent low visibility prevents air search. Leading edge of Starboard bulge of RENOWN has started to tear away. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL are returning to Gibraltar. F.O. 10th C.S. GERANIUM take charge of KENYA BERWICK, DERBYSHIRE and corvette and locate EMPIRE TROOPER. D/F bearing indicates she may be 60 miles to N.W. of position given in CYCLAMEN's 2350/27.
(S.O. Force H. 0941/A/28 to F.O.C.10 C.S.)

My 0941A/28. Request dock be prepared for RENOWN with all despatch for examination of bulge. Expected time of arrival a.m./30.
(S.O.Force H. 1019A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider (Contd.)

16 M/V's. with Force K. — In contact with 16 Merchant Vessels including one of "EXCESS". (S.O. Force K. 1000N/28 to Admty, SHEFFIELD, S.O.Force H., F.O.C.N.A. C.in C. S.A.)

EMPIRE TROOPER. — Estimated position of EMPIRE TROOPER at /28 0800/39° 28'N., 22° 30'W course 0232 degrees, 6 knots. (D.O.D.(F) 1015/28 to C.S.10, KENYA, JONQUIL, CLEMATIS, GERANIUM,

DUNCAN, HERO. — Your 0855 A/28. My position course and speed are 038° 22' 018° 10' 103° 22½. HERO in company. Cancel my 0901 A/28 to S.O.Force H. (Capt: D.13 1107A/28 to S.O. Force H.)

Cancel my 1010/28 and act in accordance with Admiralty 2021/27. (V.A.N.P. 1310/28 to BERBYSHIRE).

R/V for Convoy. — For BHUTAN, MENELAUS, SETTLER, DELANE, CITY OF DERBY, STENTOR, ARABISTAN, ANSLEM, CITY OF LONDON, TAMAROA, CITY OF CANTERBURY, NEURALIA, RANGITIKI, COSTA RICA, ELIZABETHVILLE, ORBITA. R/V for convoy W.S.5.A. at 1200 (Zone plus 1) 30/12 is 045 degs. "DAISY" 300 miles. (D.O.D.(F) 1201/28 to All ships in Area 1).

BONAVENTURE. — Expect to arrive at Gibraltar 1730A/29. Request immediate supply of 1050 oil fuel. etc. Have following for disposal, four army officers 60 other ranks and two tons of stores. Eight officers and 31 other German prisoners. (BONAVENTURE, 1111/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

DORSETSHIRE. Convoy R/V., Corvettes. FURIOUS. DUNEDIN. — Your 1849/27 (not to F.O.C.N.A. or DUNEDIN). 1. para (a) Concur, DORSETSHIRE to conform. 2. para (b) - Admty. will broadcast. (R/V for Convoy). 3. para.(c)- Corvettes must remain with EMPIRE TROOPER for the present. 4. para. (e)- FURIOUS is to remain at Gibraltar after fuelling to be sailed as soon as possible in company with DUNEDIN for Freetown. C.in C. S.A. arranging their Time of Arrival. (D.O.D.(F) 1116/28 to Force K, F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider. (Contd.)

D/F Enemy Unit.

First Class D/F Bearings from me at 1226Z were Call Sign Z S E L 269 degrees Call Sign M I M N 261 degrees. My position 1226 039° 56' N., 020° 11' W.
(S.O.Force H., 1226A/28 to C.S.10).

Submarines Destroyers, (Gibraltar)

My 1028/27 not to Admiralty and your 1019/28 not to Captain (S) I, V.A.Malta. Intend to retain submrines at Gibraltar for the present. JAGUAR escorting CIRCASSIA towards P Three sails 1830/28, FAULKNOR, FIREDRAKE, HASTY sails 2000/28. Request you signal R/V for these four destroyers to meet you Sunday 29th/12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1232/28 to S.O.Force H.)

Force H.

My position course and speed ARK ROYAL in company at 1200 A 040° 02' N., 019° 56'W 120° 18 knots. Expect to pass through position 036° 10'N., 011° 40' W at approx. 1300/29 thence 095°.
Request screen may meet me as early as possible.
(S.O.Force H, 1255A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

EMPIRE TROOPER. disposal of personnel.

Ref: A.T. 2021/27. A. The safety of the personnel in EMPIRE TROOPER is the first consideration. B. Subject to A it is not desired that either EMPIRE TROOPER or the personnel in her should go to the Azores, but it is realised that EMPIRE TROOPER without personnel may have to go to Azores for repairs. C. The best solution of A and B is that personnel from EMPIRE TROOPER should be transferred to sea to cruisers and DERBYSHIRE for passage to Gibraltar. D. If C is not safe or practicable then transfer of personnel must be carried out either under the Lee of the Azores or as a last resort in Ponta Delgada anchorage or harbour. E. Report action you decide on in order that Portuguese authorities may if necessary be warned.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1303/28 to C.S.10).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider. (Contd.)

Force K, Ships in company, SHEFFIELD, DORSETSHIRE.

13. My 1000/28. (a) proceeding with following ships - NORFOLK and CITY OF CANTERBURY, RANGITIKI, CITY OF LONDON, ELIZABETHVILLE, TAMAROA, ANSELM, CITY OF DERBY, ORBITA, BHUTAN, DELANE, NEURALIA, ARABISTAN, STENTOR, ATREUS, SETTLER. (b) SHEFFIELD with ESSEX is being ordered to Gibraltar. (c) My 1349/27 para.(a) and (b) DORSETSHIRE to leave latitude 23.30N in time to meet me at 0800/31 in position 26.25W. (d) My appreciation is that only ships of slow convoy not accounted for are MENELAUS, COSTARICA. All times Zone plus 1. (S.O.Force K, 1326/20 to Adty, S.O.Force H., F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. S.A. SHEFFIELD, DORSETSHIRE, NORFOLK.)

BERWICK, damage.

Your 2021/27 and your 1303/28. In addition to underwater damage sustained in action BERWICK has 3 frames and 2 longitude frame fractures in starboard cable locker. Temporary repairs by welding were effected at Gibraltar and additional longitude frame fitted. Welding is now breaking away and additional longitude frame fractured. Ship is working badly. In view of deteriorating weather conditions maximum speed is now reduced to 15 knots in which case it is doubtful whether EMPIRE TROOPER will be met before daylight tomorrow 29/12.
(BERWICK 1400Z/28 to Admiralty, S.O.Force H, Force K, C.S.10, F.O.C.N.A.)

CLAN CUMMING.

Proceed to Gibraltar. After dark report expected time of arrival.
(D.O.D.(F) 1459/28 to CLAN CUMMING).
(Use Call Sign allocated for operation EXCESS)

RENOWN.

RENOWN will pass through position 036° 52' North, 013 08' W., at 1000 A/29 course 120 17½ knots. Join me at that time with HERO.
(S.O.Force H, 1541A/28, to Capt: D.13).

FURIOUS.

Gibraltar arrivals 1415 FURIOUS Capt: (D) 8, FAULKNOR and FIREBRAKE.
(F.O.C.N.A.1650/28 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider. (Contd.)

Destroyers. Your 1255/28 and my 1232/28. FAULKNOR FIREDRAKE, HASTY, JAGUAR ordered to pass through position 036° 25'N., 012° 20'W at 1100 zero minus one Sunday 29/12 steering 300° .
(F.O.C.N.A. 1704/28 to S.O.Force H.)

EMPIRE TROOPER TRIDENT. Transport EMPIRE TROOPER damaged in action accompanied by C.S.10 in KENYA, BERWICK, DERBYSHIRE and 4 Corvettes is proceeding towards Ponta Delgada from the Northward. She may arrive there to-morrow 29/12. If possible the troops on board will be transferred to the Warships at sea or under the lee of the Island. In which case EMPIR TROOPER may or may not proceed into Ponta Delgada for repairs.
(D.O.D.(F) 1725/28 to TRIDENT).

EMPIRE TROOPER, CYCLAMEN and DERBYSHIRE in Company. My position is 039° 30'N., 024° 16'W.
(F.O.I.C. 10 C.S. 1804/28 to Adty).

FURIOUS FIREDRAKE FURY. Intend to sail FURIOUS escorted by FIREDRAKE and FURY at 0001 29/12 to endeavour to R/V with convoy W.S.5.A. Destroyers will be recalled as requisite.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1730/28 to Adty).

575. Cancel my 1730/28.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1826/28 to Adty).

ARGUS, DUNEDIN. My 1500/28. ARGUS, DUNEDIN 6 Destroyers 5 M.T.'s expected time of arrival Gibraltar 0730/29 from West.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1756/28 to CIRCASSIA, FURIOUS, FURY, FORESTER, JAGUAR, HASTY, FIREDRAKE.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider. (Contd.)

Destroyers leave Gibraltar.

Gibraltar departure 2015/28. PAULKNOR, FIREDRAKE, HASTY R/V with C.O.Force H in accordance with my 1704.
(Force A, 2020/28 to Adty etc.)

DUNEDIN.

My position 2200/28 036° 05' N., 007°47'W., Expect to pass boom at 0800/29. Request immediate supply 950 tons oil fuel, (and provisions).
(DUNEDIN, 2201/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

EMPIRE TROOPER.

Your 1303/28. EMPIRE TROOPER is holed on water line forward and has slight trim by bow due to water in foremost hold. Owing to blown high pressure glands her present maximum speed is 8 knots. All defects and damage appear quickly and easily repairable and troops are at present in no danger. In view of known presence of enemy S/M and lack of sufficient A/S vessels I consider transfer of 2,500 men open or territorial waters will endanger both personnel and ships. In view of short period required for repairs would it not be possible for troops to remain on board EMPIRE TROOPER, thence proceeding under escort to Gibraltar. If not transfer must be carried out at Ponta Delgada. Request reply by 1200 tomorrow Sunday at which time I arrive at Ponta Delgada.
(C.S.10. 2241Z/28 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider. (Contd.)

Situation report at Ponta Delgada.

Following is for your personal information and has been despatched to Lisbon as a precautionary measure only. If this permission is definitely asked for from the Portuguese Government you will be informed. If troops enter harbour in EMPIRE TROOPER they are not repeat not to be allowed to land.

2. (Begins) British troopship EMPIRE TROOPER with troops on board was damaged by enemy action in the Atlantic on December 25th. Every effort was made to transhipp troops into other vessels at sea but owing to weather conditions and other circumstances this proved impracticable.

3. We have no alternative therefore but to direct her for necessary repairs to Ponta Delgada where she would probably arrive late on December 29th. These repairs may take some time and we propose to effect transhipment of troops as soon as necessary safe arrangements can be made. It may be that this will have to take place either in Portuguese territorial waters or actually in port.

4. In view of fact that the EMPIRE TROOPER should be regarded as an auxiliary warship, there would be no question of internment of the military personnel on board so long as they did not land. Even so, we realise that presence of this personnel on board ship in this particular locality may be embarrassing to the Portuguese authorities and we therefore assume that the transhipment would be agreeable to the Portuguese Government.

5. Please inform Dr. Salazar at once of the foregoing and try to obtain assurances from him (1) that the military personnel will not be interned while in port and (2) that no hindrance will be placed in the way of transhipment.

6. We assume of course that the ship will be given due time to make the necessary repairs. (Ends).

7. Repeat you will be informed if this permission is definitely asked for from Portuguese Government.

(Hd. of M, 2305/28 to Consul, Ponta Delgada).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S.5.A. and Raider. (Contd.)

My 1303/28. Ambassador, Lisbon, and Consul Ponta Delgada, have been warned of the possibility of EMPIRE TROOPER having to enter Ponta Delgada with the troops on board. They are taking no action with Portuguese authorities until Admiralty inform them that this is necessary. Para.D. If transfer at sea or under the lee outside territorial waters is not practicable and entry of EMPIRE TROOPER into Ponta Delgada with troops on board becomes essential, H.M. ships are not to enter harbour to effect any transfer. A merchant ship will be sent to Ponta Delgada for the Troops.
(Hd. of M. 2332/28 to C.S.10).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French at Casablanca.

(C.S.) It is reported that 10,000 French Naval Ratings arrived at Casablanca yesterday Telegram No. 2161.
(Wagon, Tangier, No T.O.O./28).

French Convoys.

At 1130/28, armed trawler LA TOULONNAISE passed east to west escorting French ships MAURICE, DELMAS, 3161 tons and JEAN L.D. 5795 tons. At 1600/28 sloop D'IBERVILLE passed east to west escorting French S/M BEVEZIERS and French sloop LINOIS, 7473 tons. (D.O.R. 29/12).

SENATEUR DUHAMEL intercepted.

Reference I.N.P. No.1 Section 9 para.81. (a) SENATEUR DUHAMEL French detained (b) 095° (c) 033° 44'N., 010° 26'W (d) 1600 (e) ordered to Gibraltar arriving 1800/29.
(CAMITO 2010/28 to V.A.N.P.)

North Atlantic.

Submarine attack at Ponta Delgada on BONITA.

Your 1012/27. Report immediately with reference to Panamanian ship. (a) Name (b) Where from.(c) Whither bound (d) Cargo carried and to whom consigned (e) Owners and by whom chartered. (f) Any other information.
(D.T.D. 1352/28 to Consul, Ponta Delgada).

Your 1352/28.
(a) BONITA (b) Barry (c) Freetown (d) 5991 tons of coal Sierra Leone Coal Company. (e) John T. Hamilton & Co., Ministry of Shipping. (f) put into Ponta Delgada for oil fuel and engine repairs. Also see my 1516/28.
(Ponta Delgada 1709/28 to Adty).

Your 1527/27. You acted quite correctly.
(V.C.N.S. 1414/28 to TRIDENT).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

My 1012/27. Ship attacked was Panamanian Steamship BONINE (? BONITA). At least 3 torpedoes were fired. Missed. 3 exploded on shore damaging house. Third ranashore did not explode and has been salved by Portuguese Authorities. It is being taken to Lisbon on board Portuguese Destroyer DOURO. The whole incident took place well within territorial waters.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1516/28 to Adty).

Air Report.

A.339 28/12. Daily Summary Operations.
1 routine A/S patrol. 1 Recce to East.
1 escort for H.M. Ships arriving from West.
1 special A/S patrol to West of Straits.
Area covered 4° W., to 8° W.
(200 Group 1701/28).

UNIQUE.

Your 1101/28 UNIQUE sails for Malta at 1845/28 (route). Request onward route. C.in C. Mediterranean 1627/11. Request also information concerning movements on OLYMPUS be passed to UNIQUE.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1746/28 to V.A.Malta.)

578. Gibraltar departure 1840/28. UNIQUE in accordance with my 1746/28. Q.B.24 BB 117 B.C.167.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1922/28 to Adty, V.A. Malta.)

CIRCASSIA
JAGUAR.

CIRCASSIA, JAGUAR sailed 1800 zone minus 1 28/12 speed of advance 13½ knots routed through 035° 00' N., 009° 00' W., to patrol in area bounded by positions 035° 25' 011° 40' 033° 40' 010° 50' 032° 10' 014° 40' 033° 50' 015° 45'. JAGUAR parts company as required to join S.O.Force H. in position 036° 25' 012° 20' at 1100 zone minus 1/29.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1810/28.)

Gibraltar departure 1800/28 CIRCASSIA for P 3 and Q.3 escorted by JAGUAR in accordance with my 1232/28.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1840/28 to Adty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 28.12.40. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Suspicious Vessel.

Ellerman of S.S. JOHAN reports that at 0300/8 a suspicious vessel anchored in position 11° 21' N., 15° 36' W. after steaming up Kanabak Reach in the dark. No lights shown. Appearance similar to sketch No. 570 in C.A.F.O. 422 but without Samson posts near funnel. Hull and funnel black, masts and superstructure buff, no crows nest, heavy derrick forward, low in water. Lights at Ppelam, Cameleon, barrel were extinguished. On enquiring he was informed that Orango Channel is no longer used.
(C.in C. S.A. 0717/28 to D.N.I.)

Corvettes, DELHI, NEPTUNE.

My 1329/27. MILFORD, ASPHODEL and CALENDULA should make contact:- MILFORD p.m./30 ASPHODEL and CALENDULA a.m./31 NEPTUNE sails from Freetown 1800/28 at 20 knots will provide cover to convoy and keep in touch as required. You will remain as ocean escort in charge of convoy.
(C.in C. S.A. 1045N/28 to DELHI).

CORNWALL.

Simonstown, arrival 28/12 CORNWALL. Propose ship de-ammunition, 30/12 and be taken in hand for refit 31/12.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1130B/28 to C.in C. S.A

Dispositions.

Weekly statement 28/12.
Freetown ALBATROSS, CANTON and CORFU.
H.M.S. BULOLO sails with S.L.61 1/1.
ASPHODEL and CALENDULA sail 29/12 to meet DELHI. NEPTUNE sails p.m./28 to cover DELHI and convoy.
Freetown - U.K. ESPERANCE BAY sailed 22/12 with S.L.60.
U.K. - Freetown. Force K and BERWICK escorting W.S.5.A. due 4/1. DORSETSHIRE proceeding to meet W.S.5.A. GERANIUM, JONQUIL, CYCLAMEN and CLEMATIS escorting EMPIRE TROOPER to Ponta Delgada.
Gibraltar - Freetown. VINDICTIVE escorted by ILEX and ENCOUNTER due 31/12.
Freetown area. BRIDGEWATER arrives 29/12 from escort duty.
Gulf of Guinea. DELHI escorting French Legion Duala to Freetown.
St. Helena area. HERMES, DRAGON, PRETORIA CASTLE.
Simonstown - Freetown. HAWKINS arriving Freetown 30/12.
Simonstown. CORNWALL, DEVONSHIRE.
Durban. French Sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.

/Capetown ....

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Dispositions. (Contd.)

Capetown. CARNARVON CASTLE.
Plate Area. CUMBERLAND, ENTERPRISE, NEWCASTLE, ASTURIAS.
Rio de Janeiro Area. QUEEN OF BERMUDA.
U.K. Ports. ARATA (Sails for Freetown 3/1). ALCANTARA, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, MORETON BAY, MOOLTAN.
(C.in C. S.A. 1829N/28).

Mediterranean.

Operations, January.

Policy (C.in C. Med. 1011/28 to Adty)
See Med. Volume.

A.S.9.

Convoy A.S.9. arrived less Greek ship FRODROMOS and KEHREA. (N.O.I.C. Port Said to Adty, 1753/27 and received 0245/29).

French Lorries, suggested Barter.

Need of lorries both for ourselves and Greeks so urgent that if French are really prepared to barter these for produce or petrol, consider blockade should be relaxed to permit of this. French are reported to have offered Greeks 1000 lorries in exchange for petrol. Recommend that we be empowered to open negotiations with Syria for lorries either on behalf Greeks or ourselves.

Free French Movement.

During Mr. Edens visit here he met General Catroux and it was agreed that should policy of bringing Syria over to Free France prove impossible, desertions should be encouraged. Catroux thinks chances of successful coup in Syria now so remote that he wishes to adopt policy of encouraging desertion. I am still reluctant to adopt this policy as I think outside events might even now produce change in Syria and that it is undesirable to cause further confusion and weakening of French in Syria while we are unable to take advantage of it. Arrival of Free French Troops may do something to change situation. I am still discussing question with General Catroux.
(C.in C. M.E. 0945/28 to W.O.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

16th Auxiliary A/S Group.

My 1224/27. These five A/S Whalers are converted commercial now commissioned as H.M.Ships about 320 tons Speed 13 knots oil fuel. Fitted 123 A armed 6 pounder L.A. and 2 Hotchkiss. They should complete early January.
(D.A/S.W. 1305/28 to C.in C. Med.)

Reserve of A/C Malta.

Your 1941/21. (Reply from Air Min. 1640/27 follows).
(D.N.A.D. 1237/28 to C.in C. Med.)

Italian ship at Trieste.

Your 1203/27. Please state name of ship referred to.
(Adty. 1530/28 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Your 1530/28 REX.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 0923/29 to Adty).

Air Report Egypt, Greece.

Operational Summary No. 201 up to 1200. 28/12.
Greece. Day 27/12. one Sunderland patrolled South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1516/28 to Air Min).

Malta, Air Report, Recco Naples.

Combined servic s report Malta to 1700 28/12 1000 to 1453. Glenn Martin Photographic reconnaissance Naples. In harbour 2 battleships, 2 cruisers, 9 destroyers. 2 M/V's 12,000 to 15,000 tons, 6 M/V's 6,000 tons, 2 M/V's 4,000 tons and 3 fleet auxilliaries. Slight but very inaccurate A.A. 4,000 pamphlets of Prime Minister's speech and 1,000 No.13 pamphlets dropped. Further operations cancelled due to weather conditions. No enemy air activity over Malta. No naval or military items.
(H.Q. Malta, 1700/28 to Air Min).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Defence of Abadan. C.in C. E.I. 1330/28 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf and C.in C. E.I. 1332Z/28 to Adty (See Operations Volume).

Policy. Convoy escorts and protection of trade. Coming commitments. Intentions re LEANDER. Arrival of ENTERPRISE and HERMES in his command would be welcome.
(C.in C. E.I. 2016/28/Z to Adty)
See Operations Vol.

U.S.S. CAPETOWN CANBERRA. Intended escorts for U.S.S from Colombo to Gulf of Aden are CAPETOWN and one A.A.C.
In addition subject to A.C.N.B. Navy Office, Melbourne concurrence CANBERRA from Colombo to approximately 070° East.
(C.in C. E.I. 0822Z/28 to Adty).

KANIMBLA. Your 1026/26 and my 1004/12. On arrival at Durban KANIMBLA to be at 12 hours' notice for six days for machinery overhaul.
(C.in C. E.I. 0826Z/28 to KANIMBLA)

Suspicious Vessel. At 0709Z/28 BEACONSTREET when in position 013° 25' N., 048° 26' E., reported sighting a suspicious vessel. Message cancelled at 0725Z/28. Cancellation considered genuine.
(C.in C. E.I. 0830Z/28 to E.I. Squadron).

Aden. Air Report. Operational Summary No.199 for 24 hours ending 1500/28. 2 Blenheims, 203 Sqdn., provided Fighter escorts for convoy B.S.11½ using advanced base Kamaran.
(A.H.Q.Aden, 1643/28 to Air Min.)

SOUTHAMPTON. KANDAHAR. Arrivals SOUTHAMPTON, KANDAHAR 23/12 Suez.
(S.B.N.O. Suez 1814/28).

W.S.4.B. Convoy W.S.4.B. arrived Suez p.m./28.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1859/28).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-China.

Agreement with Admiral Decoux for partial resumption of trade. French relations with Japan, and Thailand (Long signal from Govnr. Straits Settlements and C.in C. China to Colonial Officer and Admiralty).
(C.in C. China, 0904Z/28).
Original in Lion Copy Only.

MANYO MARU.

My 0601/23 not to Admty. D.N.I. Raider now reported to be named MANYO MARU and flew Nazi Flag and not Japanese colour. There is no evidence to show raiders are other than German or captured ships but the following facts tend to show the Japanese are aware that German ships in Japan are probably acting as Supply Ships and Raiders.

TEIYO MARU. and other potential raiders.

(a) KULMERLAND last heard of Mitsubishi Dockyard 29/10 and reported transferred to Tatsuma Kisha Company and renamed TEIYO MARU (b) E. ESSBURGER returned to Kobe 25/12 after absence of twenty five days. (c) REGENSBERG departed from Yokohama for unknown destination 20/12 having previously been absent 27/9 to 28/10 (d) Raiders reported using Marshal Islands for refuelling. Crews which were landed OLE JACOB are being cross-examined in Singapore today.
(Capt: O.S. Singapore 1509Z/28 to N.A. Tokyo S.O.I's and Admty).

America and West Indies.

ORDUNA, threatened attack.

Reference report regarding contemplated attack on ORDUNA when carrying Lord Willingdon. Request your remarks on possibility of this report having been deliberately put about with object of enticing cruiser patrol to northward. Understand cases have occurred in the past of false reports being found to be of enemy origin.
Callao pass to PRINCE ROBERT.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1232/28 to S.O.(I) Callao).

AUSONIA VOLTAIRE COLUMBIA.

Halifax 28/12 AUSONIA arrived from

H.X.98 VOLTAIRE arrived from B.H.X.98.
COLUMBIA arrived from H.X.99.
(S.O.(I) Halifax, 1009/28).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 28.12.40. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

LEOPOLDVILLE. Halifax arrival 1445/28 LEOPOLDVILLE escorted by ROYAL SOVEREIGN. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1450/28 to Adty).

H.J.BULL. Your 1811/21. (re Whale catcher H.J.BULL) and your 1906/21 and my 1545/28. Probable date of completion of Bull 20/1. depending upon arrival of A/A Guns and ammunition U.S.A. promise first week in January. Date of sailing of M/S. will be reported as soon as it can be forecasted. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1547/28 to Adty).

Australia.

A/C Report. My 2359Z/17. (report of unidentified seaplane). Aircraft sighted was not an enemy aircraft. (A.C.N.B. 0556Z/28).

MANOORA MORESBY. MANOORA escorting S.S. TRIENZA left Cairus 0815Z/26 for Ocean Island. MORESBY arrived York Roads Torres Strait for surveying duties. (A.C.N.B. 0559Z/28).

U.S.S. CANBERRA escorting H.M. Transports AQUITANIA QUEEN MARY AWATEA and DOMINION MONARCH left Sydney 2205Z/27 for R/V with MAURETANIA Western Pass Strait via South of Tasmania. (A.C.N.B. 0809/28 to Adty).

HOBART. HOBART arrived Fremantle 0230Z/28. (A.C.N.B. 1135/28).

Troop Transport. Australian forces for prospective convoys. (Army, Melbourne, to W.O. 2009/28).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.)

Troop Transport (Prospective)

Your M.C. 347 28/12.
Provision of escorts and shipping has been under consideration and will inform you of decision but appears unlikely able provide additional shipping.
Have instructed C.in C. Far East deal with you direct regarding arrangements and necessary administrative troops.
(W.O. 1940/29 to Army, Melbourne).

ADELAIDE.

Following is a repetition of my 0409Z/27 (received undecypherable) (begins) arrival Suva 2255Z/26 H.M.A.S. ADELAIDE.
(S.O.(I) Wellington 0033/28 to A.C.N.B. Admty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MAURO CROCE.

27/12 arrival Italian Steamer MAURO CROCE, from Genoa.
(Barcelona 1611/28).

DUCHESSA D'AOSTA.

Following is repetition of my 1201/18. (not previously received). Intercepted telegram dated 14"12 from Steamship DUCHESSA D'AOSTA, PIRRIE to Lloyd Trieste, speaks of disembarkation and reembarkation of cargo, of work on ship during the next thirty days, of expenses and of stock of petrol. French Authorities suggest it may be intention to attempt to run the blockade.
(N.C.S.O. Duala, 0943/28 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

French Merchant Ships.

KATIOLA, MENDOZA.

Secret sources report (source B one) KATIOLA oiling this morning Saturday. No cargo engaged at present consequently date of sailing not settled. MENDOZA, expected to sail with meat and general cargo Jan. 5th. Ship has not yet oiled.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1231/28).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

MANGIN (sunk 21/12.)

Your 1151/27 Swedish ship MANGIN sank in position 040° 45'N., 016° 50' W 21/12 time 2113. Vessel sank in 3 minutes. No confidential books on board. Route orders and Consigs in drawer of chart house went down with ship.
(N.C.S.O.Lisbon. 1119/28 to S.O.(I) Gib).

WAIOTIRA Survivors.

Arrived MASHONA with 78 officers and crew and 11 passengers survivors from WAIOTIRA.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0900/28 to Adty).

CHARLES PRATT (torpedoed 21/12.)

My 1129/26. Crew saved except two believed lost. Owners informed. Master of CHARLES PRATTidentifies U/Boat from silouette as resembling U.26. After further enquiries consider ship on fire likely to have been second tanker.
(C.in C. S.A. 2251/28 to Adty).

Submarines. Reported.

If not in contact discontinue hunt and resume search for Convoy which it is presume will proceed direct to North Channel from R/V position. Aircraft is searching between 55° 35'N., 13° 40' W and 56° 00'N 08° 00'W. It is possible U/Boat reported in position 53° 00'N., 13° 20'W at 1714/27 is moving Northwards.
(C.in C. W.A. 1134/28 to HIGHLANDER).

1730.

Submarine periscope sighted 1730 N/26 000° 10'S., 008° 30'W.
(C.in C. S.A. 1204/28 to DELHI).

2130/26.

Direction-finding bearings indicate U/Boats probably within 200 miles of Cape Blanco at 2130/26.
(C.in C. S.A. 1206/28 to VINDICTIVE, DORSETSHIRE.)

By D/F on 4796 kc/s at 0210 B.S.T. unidentified enemy unit probable U/Boat S.W. of Iceland position inconclusive.
(D.D.I.C. 0300/28).

MOST SECRET.

28.12.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Submarines Reported.

Estimated U/Boat dispositions.
Italian. 1 may be returning to Mediterranean From Madeira.
1 about 39 degs North 15 degrees West.
1 to Eastward of Azores.
2 may arrive Gironde today or tomorrow.
4 in North West Approaches between 53 degs. 30'North and 57 degrees North 15 degrees W. and 17 degrees West.

German. 1 in Freetown area.
1 may be about 45 degs. N., 14 degs. W. bound for Lorient.
1 from South probably between 55 degs. N and 55 degs. 30' N., 12 degs. W. and 13 degs. 30' W.
1 possibly in area off Bloody Foreland.
1 between 57 degs. 30'North and 58 degs. 30' North 16 degs. West and 17 degs West.
1 probably eastbound between 58 degs. North and 59 degs. North about 18 degs. West.
2 betwemn 58 degs. North and 60 degs. North near 20 degs. West.
1 within 100 miles South of Iceland west of 20 degs. West.
(D.D.I.C. 1309/28 (E.O.(S) 1521/28).

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

29. 12. 40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Allocation of H.T.B.'s in Home Waters.

Following allocation has been approved. (A.C.N.S. M. 1421/29.)

Increasing Endurance of Destroyers.

C. in C., H.F. 1201/29.
Consider that maximum speed of 25 knots is most desirable in destroyers on convoy escort duty. Provided that V. & W. can attain this speed on two boilers and that there will be a 30% increase in endurance I am in favour of C. in C., Home Fleet's proposal being adopted in those ships, such as VIMY and WARWICK, which are now out of action for a considerable time.
2. Captains D. Plymouth and Liverpool are being ordered to report whether 25 knots can be obtained on two boilers.
3. Until the number of destroyer escorts available is considerably larger than at present, I am not in favour of ships being taken in hand for any alterations which would put them out of service for long periods. (C. in C. W.A. 1846/29 to Adty.)

Skopen Fiord Examination of M/V's.

Admiralty Messages 1205/27 and 1244/27.
The lack of anchorage and facilities at Skopen Fiord makes examination of vessels too superficial to discover anything suspicious or to obtain intelligence. Suggest RHEMARDEN and any other ship which has passed through German controlled waters or harbours be sent on to Kirkwall using if necessary plea of Contraband in order to obtain intelligence. (F.O.C.N.P. 2212/29 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELOSS.

At 1130/29 (D.C. 1136/29.) at 2330/29.
D.C. 2356/29 and 0030/30.

Convoy/

MOST SECRET.

For Diary.

20. 12. 40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. Contd.

Clean A/A.
Refused.

Adty. 1011/24 and 1341/38. At present on A.A. cruiser has been diverted to provide defence for the anchorage. She is urgently required in her legitimate role.

S. It is therefore requested:-

(a)That requirements for A.A. gun defence may be approved in principle without awaiting a meeting of the C.O.S. (A.A.) Sub-Committee.

(b)That arrangements may be made to provide a deterrent defence from existing resources as soon as possible. (D. of L.D. 1317/39.)

Ocean Reference.

Progress Report 19/12. (R.A.Scapa 2015/39.)

Movements.

MANCHESTER.

Sailed. E.T.A. Scapa 1630/39.(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0044/39.) Arrived Scapa 1645. (A.C.C.S. 1746/39.)

WHITEHALL.

By 2044/27. Sailing postponed further 24 hours.(C. in C. Nore 0914/39.)

HYTHE,
HUSSAR.

Arrived 0010/39. (F.O. Humber 0919/39.

HAMBLEDON,
GODDARD.
SALAMANDER,
FAME.
HAVANT.

Arrived 0930. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0943/39.)

HOLLYHOCK,
LINNET.

Arrived 0940. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0943/39.

HOOD,
ILLUSTRIOUS,
DUNCAN.
ESCAPADE.

Arrived Scapa 0945. (A.C.C.S. 1001/39.)

ECHO,
ELECTRA.

MAURITIUS/

MOST SECRET.

29. 12. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

MAURITIUS,
VIMY,
BULLDOG.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1029/29).
VIMY sailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1915/29.)

WIDGEON.

Sailed 1336. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1349/29.

VENOMOUS.

Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1353/29.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 6 Trawlers, (A.C.C.S. 1536/29.)

LEAMINGTON.
CHURCHILL.
FIORUN.

Arrived Scapa 1246.
(A.C.C.S. 1746/29.)

NOTTINGHAM and (?)

Arrived Reykjavik.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland 1953/29.)

BROKE.

Sailed for Belfast (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2001/29.)

KASHMIR.

Sailed from Plymouth. 0949/29.
(C. in C. W.A. 0704/30.)

Operations.

Operation.
P.V.1.

Will be carried out between 2000 and 2230 tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1047/29.)

Operation.
H. C.

Will be carried out tonight, Zero hour 2200. (V.A. Dover 1717/29.

Troop Embarkation.

GLENROY sailed for Lamlash. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2145/29.)

O. 23.
SEALION.

My 1456/27. To resume normal Patrol after dark today. (V.A.S.1018/29.)

UNDAUNTED.

My 1721/27. Sailed for Clyde escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE 1130. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1136/29.)

SEVERN.

V.A.S. 1847/28. Concur with proposed Patrol. (A.C.N.S. T. 1253/29.) Propose Area be North of 55°N. (C. in C. W.A. 1826/29 to V.A.S.)

War Diary. 29. 10. 40. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

S. 31. Passed Bell Rock 1700/29. Route thence to Petrol within 20 miles of 60° 10' N. 4° 10' E.(S.O. 1421/29.)

Greenock Area. Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1625/29.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/30. (V.A.C. 1638/29.)

L. 25. Exercising tomorrow in Scapa Flow(A.C.C.S. 1711/29.)

British Air Activity.

Liverpool F.O.I.C. Liverpool reports R/C flight by 2 Enemy A/C over Liverpool at 1235 and 1247/28 and suggests Air Patrols be maintained in clear weather in future on outskirts of Gun-defended Zone to intercept such R/C. Fully concur in necessity for maximum possible protection and should be grateful if effect can be given to this proposal. (C. in C. W.A. 0105/29 to Fighter Command.)

Patrols. Ordered for today: SA.1A., SA.1.S., and SA.2. (C. in C. Rosyth 0725/29.)
2 Blenheims leave Dyce 0900 to patrol to Flamborough Head and return. (C. in C. Rosyth 0730/29. Assessments. (C. in C. Rosyth 1744/29.)

Height of Balloons at sea. [illegible]y 1305/11/19 and Admiralty 1630/19/11. FLIGHT [illegible] now reports as a result of sea experience that it is impracticable to close-haul Balloon to less than 500 feet in strong winds and proposes that when not close-hauled heights up to 2500 feet should be permitted. Request decision as to regulations for flying balloons when (A) with convoys (B) on other occasions at sea. (C. in C. Rosyth 1105/29 to Adty.)

Brest. A/C of 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight Naval Dockyard and Shipping at Brest. Alternative Targets, Aerodrome and seaplane Base at Lanveoc Poulmic. (H. C.C.C. 1250/29.)

Lorient. A/C of 53 and 99 Sqdns., to attack tonight S/M's and Naval Dockyard at Lorient. Alternative Target, following places in Brest. (H. C.C.C. 1252/29.)

MOST SECRET.

29. 12. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.Contd.

Falmouth.
A/A Balloons.

A946 29/12. Mark VI Balloons for protection. Approach Channel Falmouth now available. Request you will indicate to F.O.I.C. Falmouth and this Headquarters location in which balloons to be flown also whether craft or buoys to be used. (H.Q. Balloon Cond. 1440/29 to Adty.)

Fighter Escort cancelled.

Fighter Escort cancelled owing to weather. Kites should be flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1540/29 to JASON, INDIAN STAR, FOXTROT.)

Enemy Air Activity.

TREVARRACK.
(Convoy S.L.58.)

(British, 3870 Tons.) Bombed and on fire in 55° 54' N. 9° 30' W.(BALFE 0945/29.) Needs Tug at once. (BALFE 0948/29.)Proceed to assist. (C. in C. W.A. 1110/29 to HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER) Abandoned in sinking condition. Crew on board NORTH DEVON. Mate and Wireless Operator lost overboard. (WELLINGTON 1450/29 to C. in C. W.A.) Master now on board CORDELIA. States very little chance of salvage. (WELLINGTON 1601/29 to C. in C. W.A.)Took TREVARRACK in tow 0830 in 55° 52' N. 9° W.(SALVONIA 0900/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Intend proceed Liverpool with HARVESTER 0001/31, leaving SALVONIA in charge. Ship in tow, speed 3½ knots (HIGHLANDER 1945/30.) SALVONIA reports THAMES now assisting tow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1740/30.) Weather permitting, we will tow ship into Rothesay Bay at daylight 2nd. Ship abandoned. Engines appear in order. SALVONIA standin by (THAMES 1700/1.) Arrived SALVONIA and THAMES with TREVARRACK in tow (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0027/2.)

NICOLAS MICHALOS.

(Greek, 4343 Tons). German A/C attacking and gunning in 55° 37' N. 9° 35' W. (NICOLAOS MICHALOS. Recd. 1030/29.)

Convoy
ADMIT.

Enemy A/C bombing in 51° 38' N. 1° 15' E.
(VERSATILE 1400/29.) Fighters being sent
(Hore W/T. 1416/29.) 6 Bombs. No damage.
(VERSATILE 1455/29.)

MOST SECRET.

29. 12. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Ramsgate.

Enemy Air Activity.Contd.
At 1510/29 two H.E. Bombs dropped on Harrison Road. 12 houses damaged, 2 seriously. No Naval casualty or damage. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1515/29 and 1605/29.)

Plymouth.

Attacked between 1936 and 1957/28 by about 25 A/C. About 10 H.E. and many hundreds of Incendiary Bombs dropped. About 150 fires started but all soon under control and most extinguished by daybreak. No naval casualties reported, but of civilians 2 killed, 22 severely and 22 slightly wounded. Slight damage to Naval buildings. (C in C;W.A. 1553/29 to Adty.)

Orkneys.

At 1456 one enemy A/C approached Orkneys from N. West height 20000; remained inside prohibited area for about one hour and was engaged by shore batteries with U.T.P. Fighters from Scaebrae and Castletown endeavoured to intercept but owing to low clouds and variations of heights no sightings obtained. A/C finally left on S.E. course and was last plotted 30 miles East of Wick at 1618. Good R D/F and O/L plots were received. (N.C.O.S. 1830/29 to Adty.)

Harwich.

2 German Mines, type unidentified, cut by Fleet Minesweepers in O.H.B. One at 1940 in 51° 50' N. 1° 49' E., and one at 1948 in 51° 49' N. 1° 49' 30" E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1957/29.)

Liverpool.

My 1810/27. At 1625/27 s.s. BRUNSWICK detonated a small Magnetic Mine 110° Bar Light Vessel 1¼ miles. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1618/29.)

CATRINE damaged.

CATRINE (British, 2216 Tons) damaged by Mine at 1545 today near O.1. Black Buoy in Queens Channel. Hoped bring her up harbour tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2225/29) While being towed into harbour parted tow and was blown on to training bank near Burbo Buoy. Position serious but not hopeless. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2035/30) Anchored off Tranmere Beach & discharging cargo.(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1647/31.)

Three Mines/

MOST IMMEDIATE.

29. 1. 40.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. Contd.

Three mines detonated p.m. today in [illegible].74 in position about 7.6 miles 312 degrees from Nelson Buoy. In view of this and N.O.I.C. Isle of Man's 1138 /29/1E repeated to you and the fact that all available L L and 3 A Sweepers are fully employed on Liverpool Channels the provision of at least 4 additional sweepers for Preston and Barrow Channels is an urgent necessity.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1844/29 to C. in C.W.A.)

Mine report for 24 hours ending 1800/29. Exploded by S A Sweeper 1, by LLS, by S.S. CATRINA 1; self detonated 2 vicinity of Bar Lt. V., 3 in [illegible].74 about 7.6 miles 315 degrees from Nelson Buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool [illegible]/29.)

Portsmouth.

Cancel my 0950/29. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1716/29.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Mines at Stadlandet.

My 2054/17 not to C in C Rosyth. Further enquiries have elicited the report that the Germans have not repeat not laid mines at Stadlandet. Graded C2 repeat C2.

2. Information about the lights in the Inner Lead are contradictory but it is believed that some lights have been extinguished in the Bud area including Huso Light. (D.D.I.C. 1918/29 to C. in CHF)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

NEWPORT. (Town-Class Destroyer) Only one engine effective. Intend to make Lough Foyle (NEWPORT 1201/29 to Adty.)

SALISBURY. (Town-Class Destroyer) Parted company at 0500/27 with condenser trouble. (NEWPORT 1201/29 to Adty.)

SWANSEA CASTLE. (M/S Trawler). My 1900/28. Returned to harbour with defects. Possible delay 24 hours (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1609/29).

BROCK. My 1200/29. Sailing delayed by Boiler trouble. (F.O.I.C. London 1701/29).

PELICAN. Report of damage by collision. Vessel is seaworthy for voyage to southern port, but requires docking (A.S. Rosyth 1706/29).

M.L.171. Unable to sail owing to defective Tank. (Capt. M/L. 1825/29 to C.in C. Nore).

BARNHEAD. Reports run ashore at 2000 today in 63° 30' N. 16° W. All crew landed. Tug being sent. (F.O. Iceland 1834/29 to Adty.)

LA TIGRE
DEODAR
M.L.159. My 1558/29. Will not sail owing to defects (C.in C. Nore 2050/29).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Tankers — Scheme for requisitioning (Ministry of Shipping 1815/29 to S.T.O's) (Original in Lion copyonly)

Convoys — Positions (D.T.D.,1131/29 to C. in C., H.F.)

F.S. 73 — 28 ships, 5 additional from Middlesbrough. (F.O.I.C., Tyne 0948/29 N.C.S.O. Humber 1125/29)

W.N. 60 — Arrived 0945/29 (N.C.S.O. Methil 0955/29)

F.N. 68 — Arrived 1025/29. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1031/29) All Tyne ships arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1621/29) Humber ships arrived except VESTMANROD (N.C.SO. Humber 1644/29)

S.C. 18 — Advance sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1101/29) GEDDINGTON COURT with planes. (C.O.A.C., 1102/29)

F.N. 70 — Delay in starting due engine breakdown of Commodore's ship. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1131/29) 1020/29, 18 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames 1303/29, 1729/29) Ships joining from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1646/29)

E.N. 48 — My 2347/28 Delete AMAZONE (N.C.S.O. Methil 1131/29)

O.B. 269 — Route (D.T.D., 1152/29)

H.G. 49 — Escorted by LEITH and 3 "KINGSTON" trawlers sails from Straits 1500/29. Route. (F.O.C.N.A. 1154/29)

O.G. 48 — Sailed BLUEBELL and FOLKESTONE to escort O.G.O. 48 and O.G.C. 48 respectively. WESTCOTT to escort O.G. 48 also CANDYTUFT to join on completion A/S practice. (F.O.I.C Liverpool 1225/29) Sailed 1345/29 3 ships (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1350/29, 1351/29) O.G.O. 48, 0500/30. 7 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1545/29)

F.S. 72 — Reported in Barrow Deep, 16 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1239/29)

/O.B. 267.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd	Shipping
O.B. 267	Amended route. (D.T.D. 1247/29) (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1255/29)
O.B.M. 267	1716/29 H.M.T. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. 5. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1732 and 1733/29.
W.N. 61	List (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1303/29) W.N. 61,0 1300/29, no escort, 20 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1500/29)
F.N. 71	1120/29, 18 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1318/29) List (1804/29)
H.X. 99	Date and route. ALAUNIA and PORPOISE return to Halifax. (D.T.D., 1334/29)
F.S. 74	Sailed 1400/29 6 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 1449/29, 1451/29) List (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1618/29)
F.N. and F.S.	Additional code words and call signs. Ocean, Plumb, Prize, Radio. (D.S.D., 1603/29)
SLS 59	Sailing telegram as amended (D.T.D. 1610/29)
S.L. 59	Route for R.V. (D.T.D., 1614/29)
O.B. 270	Route (D.T.D., 1723/29)
S.C. 16	From R.V. steer direct to 55° 50' N., 09° 00' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1914/29)
F.S. 71	All ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames 2318/29)
F.S. 75	Sailed 2300/29. 17 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 2339/29)
O.B.C.	0001/29 sailed O.B.C. Escort CRISPIN. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0016/29 to Admty.)
H.X. 97	If no alterations to route received, steer for position 125 miles south of last position on Standard Route thence to destination. (D. T.D., 0825/29 to G.B.M.S.1.)
W.N. 60	Estimate W.N. 60 will meet E.N. 48 about 0300/29. (C. in C., Rosyth 0020/29 to JASON, WOLFHOUND, CURACOA, FOXTROT, BLACKFLY, BERKSHIRE, INDIAN STAR.

/H.X. 97.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	**Shipping**
H.X. 97 O.B. 267	My 1916/28. H.X. 97 has been scattered by gale and will probably be following route through: 56° 44' N., 28° 40' W., 59° 05' N., 16° 31' W., 57° 08' N., 10° 00' W., not that given in my 1230/28 paragraph A. It is estimated Convoy H.X. 97 will cross meridian of 13° W during forenoon/29. Leave Convoy O.B. 265 at 2359/29 to collect and join H.X. 97. (C. in C., W.A., 0020/29 to WHITEHALL, VANQUISHER, WINCHELSEA, RHODODENDRON, WORCESTERSHIRE, HEPATICA)
H.X. 97	On leaving Lough Foyle, proceed towards position 57° 00' N., 16° 32' W., Any ships of H.X. 97 encountered to be collected and escorted back. (C. in C., W.A., 1614/29 to VISCOUNT)
	My 0020/29. Proceed to sweep towards position 58° 55' N., 17° 10' W., and thence on a course 251° until dark 30/12. WHITEHALL and VANQUISHER are then to return to base, passing through 57° 00' N., 16° 32' W., and thence south of Rockall. WINCHELSEA, GENTIAN and RHODODENDRON are similarly to return to base, passing through 59° 05' N., 16° 32' W., and 57° 08' N., 10° 00' W. Any ships of H.X. 97 encountered are to be collected and escorted. (C. in C., W.A., 1624/29 to WHITEHALL, WINCHELSEA, VANQUISHER, GENTIAN, RHODODENDRON)
	Your 1745/28. Do not now try to pass my 1133/28 to Commodore or repeat for convoy. Escort will be told to try and meet convoy on route given in your 1745/28. (C. in C., W.A. 0022/29 to WORCESTERSHIRE)
	Some scattered ships of convoy H.X. 97 are expected to be in approximate position 057° 32' N., 022° 33' W., at noon/29th. Routed 057° 00' N., 016° 30' W., thence to North Channel. If in vicinity follow this route. (C. in C., W.A., 0638/29 to SALISBURY RICHMOND, NEWPORT.
S.L.S. 58	BALFE's 0935. Request Cmdre. Signals his course and degrees of accuracy of position. My position is 056° 00' N., 008° 00' W., visibility 2 miles. (WELLINGTON, 1100/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

/Commodore.....

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys.	Shipping
S.L.S. 58-Contd	Commodore S.L.S. 58 in BALFE reports his noon position as 55° 37' N., 09° 11' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1302/29 to WELLINGTON)
	Convoy met in position 055° 40' N., 108° 45' W., TREVARRACK abandoned in sinking condition, crew on board NORTH DEVON. Mate Mr. R. Brown and Wireless Operator H. Brown lost overboard. (WELLINGTON 1430/29 to C. in C., W.A.)
	Your 1152/24. It is observed that inward route from rendezvous was not repeated to Commodore to S.L.S. 58 with the result that when Convoy was not met on 27/12 both escort and aircraft searched for it along a route which the Commodore had not been given. Requested that in future the inward route may always be given to Commodore of an unescorted convoy using the secret position method. (D.T.D. 2313/29 to C. in C., W.A.)
E.N. 49 W.N. 62	Act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 49 sailing at 1830/30. On meeting transfer to W.N. 62 due Cape Wrath 0330/1 and Duncansby 1330/1. Code word for E.N. 49 'MIGHT and W.N. 62 MUTUAL. (C. in C., Rosyth 1103/29, to FLEETWOOD)
Escort Groups	Cancel my 1545/23. As both H.X. 98 and H.X. 100 are due at R/V on 13/1, order of sailing of escort groups is revised as follows:- 3rd O.B. 267 Dec. 30 meet S.L.S. 59 6th O.B. 268 Jan. 1 meet S.C. 17 2nd O.B. 269 Jan. 3 meet H.X. 99 7th O.B. 270 Jan. 5 meet S.L. 60 4th O.G. 49 Jan. 7 meet H.G. 49 and SLS 60 8th O.B. 271 Jan. 9 meet H.X. 98 1st no out escort Jan 11 meet H.X. 100 5th O.B. 272 Jan. 11 meet S.C. 18 3rd O.B. 273 Jan. 13 meet H.X. 101 (C. in C., W.A., 1126/29)
F.N. 71.	Southend 29/12 Departure with convoy F.N. 71 H.M. M/L 169 for Humber for onward passage to Fort William. War Dept. M/L SWALLOW for Harwich for onward routeing to Brightlingsea. Expected time of arrival Harwich before dark. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1211/29)

/W.N. 62.....

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.

Shipping

W.N. 62
F.S. 78

F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 1230/27 and 0942/28 MANCHESTER CITY in W.N. 62 is due Methil a.m. 1941 bound for Tyne. As ship is unable to anchor and no escort is immediately available to take her to Tyne intend that she should proceed alongside at Rosyth and sail so as to join F.S. 78 which is due to leave Methil at 1400/3/1. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1221/29)

S.C. 16

If any of S.C. 16 are met instruct them to proceed direct to 55° 50' N., 09° 00' W and not through 56° 10' N., 13° 30' W., as directed in my 1428/26 to avoid U-Boat in 55° 20' N., 13° 10' W. Estimated to be going northward. (C. in C., W.A., 1224/29) to ACTIVE, HEATHER, GEORGETOWN, PICOTTEE)

GEORGETOWN not met is returning from 054° 08' N., 017° 01' W., Am escorting SCOTTISH STANDARD in 053° 53' N., 017° 20' W visibility 2 miles. S.C. 16 estimated approximately 100 miles astern having been hove to for 2 days and SCOTTISH STANDARD lost touch 25/12. In view of oil fuel shortage propose to remain in company. Your 1224/29 received. (ACTIVE, 1345/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Proceed with despatch to Lough Foyle to refuel then rejoin S.C. 16. SCOTTISH STANDARD proceed independently. (C. in C., W.A., to ACTIVE.)

S.C. 16 has been ordered to steer from R/V position direct to 55° 50' N., 09° 00' W., estimate convoy should have passed through R/V at 1300/29. (C. in C., W.A., 2002/29 to GEORGETOWN)

If fuel permits endeavour locate S.C. 16. If not proceed with despatch to Lough Foyle re-fuel and re-join convoy. (C. in C., W.A., 2014/29 to GEORGETOWN)

W.N. 61.

Reference N.C.S.O Clyde's 2150/28. Amend number of ships to read 15. CHEMONG has returned Clyde owing to weather. (N.C.S.O.S Clyde, 1434/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.

Shipping.

O.B. 266	To avoid U-Boat reported between 53° 30' N., and 57° 00' N., 15° W., and 17° W., amended route for O.B. 266. 56° 25' N., 12° 00' W., 55° 00' N., 15° 00' W., 53° 00' N., 25° 00' W. Convoy disperse in 22° W. (C. in C., W.A., 1632/29 to MALLOW)
O.B. 267	Reference my 1359/26 and 1255/29 para. 6. new noon rendezvous are:- Noon 1/1/41 56° 02' N., 11° 53' W., Noon 2/1/41 54° 00'N 15° 57' W. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1640/29 to Admty.)
F.S. 74	RINGDOVE sailed to join F.S. 74 on passage to Humber. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1718/29)
E.N. 48 W.N. 61	My 1031/27. JASON not to proceed to Scapa but to continue with E.N. 48 until W.N. 61 is met. Due Cape Wrath 2330/30. (C. in C. Rosyth 2305/29 to JASON)
3 M.V's	Intend sailing at 1800/30. 3 M/Vs including 1 tanker for St. Helens Roads E.T.A., 0830/31, 1 M/V for Poole, escorted by Portsmouth A/S Trawlers. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1944/29 to C. in C., W.A., amended received 2022/29)
Limit of 40 Ships	In future not more than 40 ships should sail in any one convoy. H.X. 100, any surplus over 40 should transfer to H.X. 98 if time and weather permit, failing which they should be held for later H.X. or S.C. convoy (D.T.D., 1246/29 to C.O.A.C., Halifax)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Troop Convoys

Shipping

W.S. 5 B

J. 30 will not now arrive Avonmouth.
J. 27 will not leave Liverpool until 31/12.
MONARCH OF BERMUDA will arrive Avonmouth in next day or two for discharge of cargo and preparation for further voyage.
Total military personnel to embark approximately 1000 possibly increasing up to 1500 but capacity of ship is 2169 all ranks. Embarkation date will be as for J. 30. (D. of S.T., 0500/29 to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth)

PENNLAND arriving Belfast 30/12 from Clyde for drydocking urgently needs boiler cleaning and other minor repairs in order that speed of 15 knots essential for convoy W.S. 5 (b) may be obtained.
Vessel is required back in Clyde by 5/1.
Request that if possible boiler cleaning etc., be carried out in Belfast in view of shortness of time available.
Request early report whether you consider speed of 15 knots can be maintained after drydocking, boiler cleaning and repairs possible in time available have been carried out. (D. of S.T., 1119/29 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

BOSSO
EUMAEUS

Your 1832/28. It is not considered desirable that ships should be routed down one Meridian of Longitude for such a distance as has been done in this case.
Request you will make some diversion between 61° 10' N., and 40° N.
(D.O.D. (H) 1141/29 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Sailed OTTAWA escorting ABOSSO and EUMAEUS in accordance with my 1038/28 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1535/29)

SALOPIAN
ABOSSO
EUMAEUS

My 1832/28 amend route. Inform ABOSSO and EUMAEUS accordingly. (F.O.C.N.P. 1450/29 to SALOPIAN)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.12.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Troop Convoys

W.S. 5 B

Shipping

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Request that if possible boiler cleaning etc., be carried out in Belfast in view of shortness of time available.
Request early report whether you consider speed of 15 knots can be maintained after drydocking, boiler cleaning and repairs possible in time available have been carried out. (D. of S.T., 1119/29 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

ROSSO
EUMAEUS

Your 1832/28. It is not considered desirable that ships should be routed down one Meridian of Longitude for such a distance as has been done in this case. Request you will make some diversion between 61° 10' N., and 60° N.
(D.O.D. (H) 1141/29 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Sailed OTTAWA escorting ABOSSO and EUMAEUS in accordance with my 1038/28 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1535/29)

SALOPIAN
ABOSSO
EUMAEUS

My 1832/28 amend route. Inform ABOSSO and EUMAEUS accordingly. (F.O.C.N.P. 1450/29 to SALOPIAN)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider

DUCHESS OF YORK — Proceed to Ponta Delgada (D.S.O. 0416/29 to DUCHESS OF YORK)

Advice to Ponta Delgada — My 2305/28. Ambassador Lisbon has been asked to inform Portuguese Government of contents of Telegram and to add
(1) That ship will arrive about noon today Sunday with troops on board.
(2) It is hoped that repairs can be effected within a very short period, but if this impracticable another Merchant Vessel will be sent to transhipp troops.
Request you will take necessary action locally. Corvette CYCLAMEN will also require to enter harbour to fuel. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0420/29 to Consul Ponta Delgada approved by V.C.N.S.)

Your 2241/28 to Admiralty only, approved.
A. Admiralty 2332/28. Ambassador Lisbon and Consul Ponta Delgada have been informed (1) that EMPIRE TROOPER will arrive about noon today Sunday with troops on board. (2) It is hoped repairs will be completed within a very short period but if this proves to be impracticable another merchant vessel will be sent to transhipp troops.
B. No warship other than CYCLAMEN is to enter territorial waters unless absolutely essential. Consul has been informed that CYCLAMEN will require fuel.
C. H.M. Submarine TRIDENT on patrol off Ponta Delgada at 0800/27 fired three torpedoes at Rumanian ship BONINE who refused to answer signals. Torpedoes missed, two exploded ashore, one has been salved and sent to Portugal. No admission as regards this occurrence has yet been made by us.
D. DUCHESS OF YORK has been diverted towards Ponta Delgada.
E. Inform Forces in Company with you that area 20 miles south of Island of San Miguel is a safe sanctuary for our Submarine during dark hours. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0455/29 to C.S. 10 approved V.C.N.S.)

/EMPIRE TROOPER...

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider-Contd.

EMPIRE TROOPER

Request you will inform EMPIRE TROOPER that it is of the utmost urgency that she should be able to leave Ponta Delgada at the earliest possible moment. Also that no troops are to be allowed out of the ship on any pretext. (V.C.N.S., 1035/29 to C.S. 10)

Gibraltar Arrivals

Gibraltar arrival 0730/29 ARGUS, DUNEDIN, WISHART, VELOX, VIDETTE, FOXHOUND, FORTUNE HEREWARD escorting NORTHERN PRINCE, CLAN MACDONALD, EMPIRE SONG. (S.O.I. Gib. 0 0746/29)

FURIOUS DUNEDIN

Admty. 1116/28. Intend to sail FURIOUS and DUNEDIN escorted by FORESTER and FURY for Freetown 1400/29. Expected time of arrival Freetown 0900 zone plus one Sunday 5/1. Escort will be ordered to part company by signal. Speed of advance 15 knots routed through 028° 50' N., 021° 35' W., 020° 00' N., 021° 00' W., thence direct. (F.O.C.N.A. 1048/29 to C. in C., S.A.)

W.S. 5 A. Destroyer Escort

Your 1048/29 FURIOUS and DUNEDIN proceed so as to R/V with convoy W.S. 5 A escorted by Force K at 0900H/3/1.
Convoy expected to be in position 026° 00' N., 020° 25' W.; at 0800 N /31 then routed through 012° 45' N., 019° 30' W., 00° 20' N 015° 00' W., estimated speed of advance 10½ knots. As Corvettes have been left behind only A/S Escort available whole convoy from there to Freetown will be ENCOUNTER and ILEX now accompanying VINDICTIVE. Suggest FORESTER and FURY shall remain with FURIOUS till destination if possible. (C. in C., S.A. 1145H/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

EMPIRE TROOPER

Very early report is required after arrival of EMPIRE TROOPER.
1. As to whether she can be made seaworthy at Ponta Delgada.
2. How long this will take. (D.O.D. (F) 1158/29 to Consul, Ponta Delgada)

/CLAN CUMMING.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider-Contd.

CLAN CUMMING — Report your position relative to "ROBIN". (D.O.D. (F) 1159/29 to CLAN CUMMING)

Force K. — FORMIDABLE, NORFOLK escorting Convoy W.S. 5 A position course and speed 1200/29 033° 18' N 019° 10' W., 214° 10½ knots routed through 031° 00' N., 021° 00' W., 012° 45' 019° 30' Rendezvous with DORSETSHIRE in 026° 00' N., 020° 25' W., at 0800/31 zone + One. (F.O.C.N.A., 1200/29 to CAUNA, MARON, FURIOUS, FORESTER, DUNEDIN, FURY)

DERBYSHIRE
BERWICK
KENYA — A. When EMPIRE TROOPER has entered Ponta Delgada, DERBYSHIRE is to be sent to Gibraltar.
Most undesirable that any of H.M. Ships other than CYCLAMEN should fuel at Ponta Delgada.
Retain BERWICK with you as long as fuel and her damage permits and then send her to Gibraltar.
Admiralty will keep you informed of the repair situation of EMPIRE TROOPER. On completion she is to be escorted to Gibraltar by KENYA and four corvettes. (D.O.D. (F) 1313/29 to C.S. 10)

DUCHESS OF YORK — Confirm messages your 1336/28 (Proceed to Gibraltar) and your 0416/29 (Proceed to Ponta Delgada)

EMPIRE TROOPER
Repairs to. — 965/29 (Reply of Sir R. Campbell to F.O.) T.O. Despatch 1407/29)

FURIOUS
DUNEDIN — Gibraltar departure 1430/29 FURIOUS, DUNEDIN, FORESTER, FURY in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 1048/29 (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1452/29 to Admty.)

RENOWN
ARK ROYAL — N.O. 4. (a) 0830. (b) RENOWN 00
ARK ROYAL 00 25
My position course and speed are at 1900 035° 56' N., 009° (? 56') W. 090° 17½ knots
When will dock be ready.
(S.O.Force H., 1651/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/DUCHESS OF YORK.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A abd Raider-Contd.

DUCHESS OF YORK — Your 1400/29 act in accordance with my 0416/29. Proceed to Ponta Delgada. (D.C. for D.D.O.D. 1707/29 to G.B.M.S. for DUCHESS OF YORK)

CLAN CUMMING — In addition to damage to EMPIRE TROOPER a German communique claims sinking one 6,000 ton ship which may be CLAN CUMMING with whom we have not been in touch since the action at 0700/25.
Proceed and search for possible survivors in area of action in approximate position 43° 40' N., 24° 30' W. The water for a radius of 60 miles round position should be covered. (D.O.D. 1715/29 to CALIFORNIA)

EMPIRE TROOPER Repairs to — No 966/29. My 965 (Reply of Sir R. Campbell to F.O.) (T.O.Despatch 1735/29)

EMPIRE TROOPER
CYCLAMEN
BERWICK
DERBYSHIRE
KENYA — EMPIRE TROOPER and CYCLAMEN have entered Ponta Delgada. BERWICK and DERBYSHIRE detached to proceed to Gibraltar. KENYA has 531 oil fuel remaining sufficient for 6 days normal standing. (F.O.C. 10th C.S. 1801/29 to Admty.)

BONAVENTURE — Gibraltar arrival 1800/29. BONAVENTURE. (S.O. (1) Gibraltar, 1802/29 to Admty)

DUCHESS OF YORK — My 1725/28. SS DUCHESS OF YORK is expected to arrive Ponta Delgada a.m. 30/12. (D.O.D. 1816/29 to TRIDENT)

Survivors — For GEORGIC, CLAN FORBES, CLAN FRAZER, NARSA, SHAKESPEARE, YORK WOOD, BEN NEVIS, MAHSEER, SODO. Keep a special look out for possible survivors while passing between latitude 45° N., to 43° N. (D.O.D. 1817/29 to G.B.M.S. Area 1)

EMPIRE TROOPER — Your 1158 Ship mentioned will sail 1930 G.M.T 30/12. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1830/29 to Admty.

/CYCLAMEN.....

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider-Contd.

CYCLAMEN — CYCLAMEN arrived Ponta Delgada 1930 G.M.T. 29/12. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1840/29 to Admty.)

CLAN CUMMING — Your 1715/29 to CALIFORNIA. Following have been received from CLAN CUMMING. Begins. Defects, proceeding Gibraltar. Position course and speed of advance 018° Robin 100 120° 12 knots. 1200/28. Ends. (F.O.C.N.A. 1842/29 to Admty.)

Force H. Position — My 1651 (No trace in War Reg.) para 2 cancel and subsitute (1) my position course and speed at 1900 35° 56' N., 009° 56' W., course 86° speed 17½ knots altering to 105° at 0300. Request you inform (?Scottish) (S.O.Force H 2001/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MENELAUS COSTA RICA ATREUS — F.O.C.N.A. As 1842/29 continue the search ordered in A.T. 1715/29. MENELAUS, COSTA RICA and ATREUS are not yet accounted for. (D.O.D. (F) 2157/29 to CALIFORNIA)

ATREUS — My 2157/29 para. 2. Delete ATREUS. (D.D.O.D. (F) 0134/30 to CALIFORNIA)

CLAN CUMMING — Your 1715/29 CLAN CUMMING has arrived Gibraltar. Also passed to S.O.Force K. (F.O.C.N.A. 2222/29 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

SENATEUR DUHAMEL intercepted.

CAMITO reports French Trawler SENATEUR DUHAMEL intercepted in 33 degs 44 mins North 010 degs 26 mins West steering 095 degs at 1600/28. Sent in to Gibraltar expected time of arrival 1800/29.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1130/29 to Admty).

CUBA
INDOCHINOIS

Your 0135/27 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon.
In addition to men from CUBA, presumably crew of INDO-CHINOIS are still at Freetown awaiting repatriation.
Request you notify Admiralty and N.C.S.O Lisbon of number of officers and men involved so that arrangements may be made to take as many as possible on COLONIAL.
(Head of M. 1231/29 to C. in C. S.A).

Vichy Ships Allowed S. of Dakar.

Your 2311/28/11. My 2111/15/11 should be adhered to and Vichy Warships allowed to proceed south of Dakar. They should however be reported and if circumstances allow their destination checked.
(Head of M. 1350/29 to C. in C. S.A).

Floating Dock.

French floating dock with 3 tugs and trawler was in position 180 degs. Cape Tarifa 6 course 280 degs. at 1825/29.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1901/29 to North Atlantic St

North Atlantic

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. 1 routine A/S patrol 1 surface reconnaissance East. 1 escort for M.T. ship. 1 escort for convoy. 1 special A/S patrol Area covered 4° West to 8° 10' West.
(200 Group 1700/29).

LEITH.
KINGSTON JACINTH
KINGSTON TURQUOISE
KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE
H.G. 49.

Gibraltar Departure 29/12 1400 LEITH KINGSTON JACINTH KINGSTON TURQUOISE KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE escorting H.G. 49.
(S.O. (I) Gibraltar 1454/29).

Trawlers.

KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE KINGSTON JACINTH KINGSTON TURQUOISE who sailed with H.G. 49 P.M. have been informed their destination is Liverpool.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2240/29 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NEPTUNE.
DELHI.
Legion
Movement.

Departure 1800/28 NEPTUNE to rendezvous with DELHI escortin TOUAREG and CAP DE PALMES.
(S.O.(I) Freetwon 0051N/29).

LLANDAFF.

Overdue shipping my 1105/25.
LLANDAFF arrived Capetown.
(S.O.I. Capetown 0945B/29).

DELHI.
Corvettes.

Departure 0500/29 ASPHODEL and CALENDULA to rendezvous with DELHI as A/S escort.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1103N/29).

Force M.
NEPTUNE.

Your 2223/26 /. Flag of F.O. Force M. was struck in NEPTUNE at sunset V.A. Cunningham sailed for U.K. in ORONTES leaving Freetown 29/12.
(C. in C. S.A. 1117N/29 to Admty).

VIKINGS.

Departure 0930/29 French Armed Trawler VIKINGS for Duala expected to arrive 4/1/1941.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1136N/29).

Force L.
PRETORIA
CASTLE.

Your 1200 A/28 and your 1104A/28 (not to Admty). After re stocking with petrol and fuel if necessary on 31/12 Force L is to proceed Simonstown passing through position 022° 00'S. 000° 00'W., 030° 00'S., 010° 00'E. and adjusting speed so as to arrive p.m. 5/1. Boiler cleaning and overhauling of aircraft are to be started and anticipated date of readiness of service reported as soon as possible after arrival. PRETORIA CASTLE part company with Force L. on 31/12 and proceed Freetown so as to arrive p.m./5/1.

CORNWALL.

Your 1130/28. CORNWALL refit must be postponed temporarily. Further signal will be made.
(C. in C. 1305N/29 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.).

/BRITISH.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

BRITISH PREMIER feared lost.

My 2231/28. Master of HYDRONESSA has been interviewed and reports at 2100 G.M.T. on 24/12 in position 6.20 N. 13.38 W. he passed what appeared to be tanker on fire distant one mile, features indistinguishable. It is feared that this may have been BRITISH PREMIER reported overdue on S.O. (I) Freetown's 1848/27. MILFORD searched this area on 27/12 with no result. (C. in C. S.A. 1911/29 to Admty).

ENTERPRISE, NEWCASTLE, CUMBERLAND, QUEEN OF BERMUDA. ASTURIAS.

Failing further enemy information, intend to detach ENTERPRISE so as to fuel from Oiler ARNDALE and store from LALTAVIA at F.O. on 1/1. When ENTERPRISE rejoins me NEWCASTLE will proceed to fuel and store, and CUMBERLAND will do so when NEWCASTLE returns. During these operations cruiser force will remain in L. 31 with ships fuelling within support distance. QUEEN OF BERMUDA will leave K.33 7/1 calling for water at a Plate port then proceed to Falkland Islands to covering force, probably subsequently (?visiting) (?Deception) Island (s). ASTURIAS fuels at Montevideo 9/1 then proceeds to K. 33.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1919Z/29 to C. in C. S.A.).

ASTURIAS Operation.

Operation against French ship permitted proceed to rendezvous with BALTAVIA who will be either at sea rendezvous Orange or at Anchorage F.O. until about 6/1. Obtain your rum from y her and transfer her personnel stores and mail for R.A.S.A.D., CUMBERLAND NEWCASTLE QUEEN OF BERMUDA and Falkland Isles. On completion return to patrol L. 32. Land ALCANTARA's mail at Montevideo next fuelling - probably 9/1. I will arrange visit.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1941Z/29 to ASTURIAS).

/Coast.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Coast Defences.

Your 1927B/18 and 1305B/19. In view of many requirements abroad decision on allocation of these guns is being postponed. In the meantime metal cage holdfasts for mounting these equipments on concrete, are to be constructed on the station. Report proposed sites for 6" guns at Walvis Bay and sites of 12 pounder guns.

CARNARVON CASTLE. Action with raider. signal failure.

Your 1106/18 as to non reception of enemy reports transmitted by CARNARVON CASTLE. No entirely satisfactory explanation can be given for non receipt of these signals. Conditions on 500 kcs. were average. CARNARVON CASTLE heard ENTERPRISE transmitting at about 1300. At 1400 CARNARVON CASTLE intercepted a message from a merchant ship distant about 350 miles. ENTERPRISE also intercepted this message but was only about 200 miles from Merchant ship. Between 1000 - 1400 CARNARVON CASTLE was transmitting at intervals on 500 kcs. but she was not heard by ENTERPRISE or QUEEN OF BERMUDA on this frequency. This suggest non-reception on 500 kcs. was due to transmission failure or to stered relay being used subsequent to main aerial being shot away. There is no evidence that CARNARVON CASTLE's transmitter was not working correctly. Conditions on high frequency were not good and may have been cause of non reception. CARNARVON CASTLE's strength signal on 8330 kcs. at 1226 was R 4 - 0 and at 1407 was R 5. In either case times of broadcast of enemy reports on each frequency were not recorded. It is therefore possible CARNARVON CASTLE, between 1018 - 1025 and 1118 - 1125, was not transmitting on (same ?) frequency on which QUEEN OF BERMUDA was keeping watch. No significance is attached to the fact that Falkland Isles W/T did not receive these messages. All times G.M.T.
(R.A.S.A.D. 2328Z/29 to C. in C. S.A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation "Excess".

What is the latest date you can accept for ships passing the narrows in Operation EXCESS? (1 S.L. 1135/29 to C.in C. Med.)

Operation "Excess". Functions of Force "H".

I hope the repercussions of delay to operation "EXCESS" will be appreciated. It was of course unavoidably extensive, as there is no margin of light craft on which to work. All operations in Mediterranean are inevitably interlocked and in consequence of delay AEGEAN convoys are similarly out of phase and it is not possible to give firm date for support by major units of operations in Western Desert. Nor has it been possible to take advantage of the lull for maintenance owing to need of keeping ships at normal notice while date of "EXCESS" remained in doubt. The fact is that so long as Force "H" has a double function and has to look Westward as well as into Mediterranean such delays will be unavoidable and likely to increase in frequency with running of more convoys. The ideal is to have a force free from other commitments which covers convoys from West through to Narrows. Until this is achieved I fear dislocation of Fleet operations and shipping movements are bound to occur and in its trail will progressively (?group omitted) delay of (Corrupt group) shipping. (C.in C. Med. 2359/29 to Admty.)

HYPERION (sunk 22/12).

Admiralty 1942/26. Possibility for U-Boat cannot be altogether excluded but the following evidence points to a mine being the cause: (a) Italian U Boats usually fire at least three torpedoes which explode at end of run. No other explosion heard (b) Depth charges from ILEX probably countermined a mine in this area (c) Capt. (D) 14 reported sighting a number of floating mines in the visinity (d) No claim has been made by Italians (e) HYPERION's contact not confirmed by "J" class destroyer. (C.in C. Med., 1213/29 to Admty.)

10th Corvette Group.

PEONY, SALVIA HYACINTH and GLOXINIA are to join the 10th Corvette Group and are to use the call signs and delivery groups allocated to 32nd A/S striking force and Senior Officer. (C.in C. Med., 1251/29 to Med. Stn.)

Boom Defences.

My 1656/19. Subject to your confirming the desirability of shipment the following additional boom defence gear will be loaded in S.S. BURDWAN leaving U.K. (date) Can storage ashore be arranged in order that ship may be released without delay. (D.B.D. 1306/29 to C.in C. Med.).

/ Mellaha Aerodrome ....

MOST SECRET.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Mellaha Aerodrome. Commercial Secretary here finds previous Consul Tripoli reports following regarding Mellaha Aerodrome which is principal Civil Aerodrome in Libya. Already in 1938 it was extensively used for Military purposes and troops were quartered there. Barracks Offices and Stores cover large area West landing ground which lies within and at Western end Tripoli Motor racing-circuit about seven miles east Tripoli and less one mile from sea. Landmarks are race course, grandstand and salt heaps to east of landing ground. (Budapest T.H.I. 1335 Recd. 1500/29 to Admty.)

Air Report Tobruk

Sollum. Operational Summary No. 202 up to 1200/29/12/40. (Ttime) One Wellington bombed Tobruk starting a number of fires.
Day 28/12. No bombing operations. In the course of two raids on Sollum Hurricanes intercepted 8 S.79's escorted by 7 CR 42's shooting down 1 S.79 and 1 CR 42 confirmed with one C.R.42 unconfirmed and damaging 4 S.79's. One Hurricane slight damage from bombing. Reconnaissances reported no movements between Bardia and Tobruk. No change in military situation Bardia.

Valona. (2) Greece Day 28/12. 3 Blenheims bombed Valona Harbour one bomb bursting 50 yards from a large ship. 3 Sunderlands patrolled south eastern Ionian Sea for enemy surface vessels.
(3) Sudan Day 28/12 No bombing operations.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1414/29).

French Fleet, Alexandria, pay. My 1601/24/11. Admi. Godfroy has been informed that pay representing that necessary for one third of his original complement is all that can be advanced in future and that it is considered that the number must be reduced in due course to 30%.
He accepts situation as regards money that will be advanced and appears to intend to reduce to new numbers.
I have authorised payment of 22,000 pounds for November as being retrospective.
(C.in C. Med. 1533/29, to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours, all times G.M.T. 0928 - 1029, 3 enemy formations probably fighters on reconnaissance flew over Malta at 1700 and 20,000 feet A.A. engaged. Six Hurricanes up no interception. 1415-1600. Ten Glenn Martin 431 flight despatched for photographic reconnaissance Pantellaria as requested by A.M.Signal X.972 26/12, but clouds at 2,000 feet prevented photography.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/29).

/ Troop Transports ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Troop Convoys.

Your 1619/14.
STIRLING CASTLE and HIGHLAND MONARCH ex W.S.4(a) are urgently required in U.K. and cannot therefore be used for movement of Italian prisoners to India but may be used for families to South Africa if desired.
Presume ships of B.N.11 and of "EMILY" could be utilised.
Ships ex W.S.4(b) are all urgently required in U.K. except that ANDES will probably be required to proceed to Australia from Egypt and could be used.
ORCADES and STRATHALLAN could also be used if no other alternatives can meet requirements.
Remainder of W.S.4(b) should return to U.K. direct but presume you will use them for families to South Africa if required.
150 troops disembarked at Durban ex BRITANNIA should be distributed among returning W.S.4(b) ships for onward conveyance to U.K.
(D.S.T. 1717/29 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

UNIQUE OSIRIS

P.O.C.N.A's 1746/28 (route instructions for UNIQUE).
Additional positions and instructions (V.A. Malta, 1828/29 to UNIQUE, OSIRIS).

Propaganda for Italy.

Following No. 32 from Chiefs of Staff to Commanders-in-Chief Middle East.
For your information in drafting communiques, object of our propaganda against Italy is to increase hatred of Germany and foster spirit of revolt against Mussolini and Fascist Regime giving impression that we distinguish between Italian nation and Fascist Regime. For this reason we are avoiding as much as possible public jeers at the Italian spirit.
Attitude of chivalry which has been shown by three Services to Italian armed forces has had excellent propaganda value in this direction. (1 S.L., 2117/29 to C.in C. Med.).

Greece.

Request for priority in supply from U.S.A. of mountain artillery ammunition.
(Mil. Mission, Athens, to W.O., 2310/29).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.12.1940. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.N.13	Departure 0200Z/29. CALEDON, SHORDHAN, AUCKLAND with B.N.13. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0230Z/29 to Admty.)
RANCHI K.D.2.	Durban arrival 29/12 RANCHI and Convoy K.D.Two. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 0540Z/29 to Admty.)
Indian Minesweepers	Your 1564/15 (re building of minesweepers by Government of India) (1) New construction programme for L.D. of India comprises the following craft. Bangor/Bathurst twelve. A/S-M/S Trawlers, forty-three. Fairmiles, Nineteen. Motor launches, twelve. Motor minesweepers, eight. (2) Before considering your proposal to increase number of motor minesweepers from eight to ten Government of India request confirmation that the number ten is intended and full reasons for proposed increase. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0601/29, to Admty.)
STAGPOOL.	Your 1223/19 re STAGPOOL. Ship is at present at Colombo earmarked for operation at Trincomalee (date) but if urgently required in Mediterranean she could be sailed to join B.N.13 from Aden. This or similar ship will be required for operation "CANVAS" and any combined operations in Red Sea. (C.in C. E.I., 0602Z/29 to C.in C. Med. amended 1438Z/29).
TALAMBA	Your 1152/26 (TALAMBA to sail for Mauritius to escort troops) TALAMBA can proceed from Durban to Suez without calling at Aden provided water consumption does not exceed 43 tons per day. (S.S.T.O. India, 0604Z/29, to C.in C. E.I.)
COLOMBO.	COLOMBO is to leave Patrol off Kismayu so as to arrive Mombasa 0500Z/January 1. (C.in C. E.I., 0606Z/29, to COLOMBO).
A/S Vessels.	Admiralty 1350/23/12 (A/S vessels to take over duties of MOONSTONE & AMBLER urgently required in Mediterranean). Although METRAVATI is not so suitable as AMBER owing to low endurance and large size, intend to sail AMBER in B.N.12 for Suez. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 1106Z/29 to C.in C. E.I.).

/ "Q" Messages Suspected Raider ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.12.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

"Q" Messages Suspected Raider.

(1) My 0830/28 ("Q" Report from BEACON-STREET) of GYJB. Efforts to obtain confirmation of cancellation not yet successful.
(2) Following took place at G.M.T. on 29.(a) at 0313 British ship BRITISH LOYALTY when in position 014 degs. 20' North 051 degs. 20' East made a Q distress message reporting being followed by a suspicious vessel. (b) at 0328 a description of vessel and its course West speed 10½ knots was broadcast. (c) At 0401 cancellation of message was made stating vessel appeared friendly. Aden W/T Station reported cancellation appeared to be from a different transmitter.
(d) Effort to establish communication with BRITISH LOYALTY's secret call sign since 0703 have not succeeded.
(3) In absence of more definite information I am assuming there is a raider in Gulf of Aden. (Note paragraph 3 cancelled see 1436Z/29) (C.in C. E.I., 1146Z/29 to East Indies Sqdn. Admty. etc.)

Dispositions

My 1146/29 (1) Following are approximate disposition of ships 29/12:-
(A) KINGSTON sails from Aden to Bombay at 1300Z.
(B) LEANDER in approximate position 015°N. 063° 50' E. at 0630Z escorting Bombay portion of B.N.12 (three ships 12 knots).
(C) SHROPSHIRE in position 003° 50' N. 051° E. at 1130Z proceeding 25 knots towards Socotra.
(D) RATNAGIRI in position 014° 25' N. 052° 30' E. at 0300Z proceeding Aden keeping to Northward side of Gulf.
(ii) Ships in paragraph (i) less RATNAGIRI are to decode signals addressed to Force 'W'.
(C.in C. E.I., 1234Z/29 to E. Indies Sqdn.)

426. My 1146/29. para 2 (B) following recd. by Aden W/T (begins) Course West speed ten and half description Ordinary Three Island Cargo Vessel 5500 repeated 5500 tons gross large Sampson Mast on Pool Cabs repeated Pool Cabs Wing bridge foremast shorter than most Ends.
(C.in C. E.I., 13122/29 to Admty.)

My 1146/29. Cancel paragraph 3. BRITISH LOYALTY has now made a message in accordance with Admiralty message D.V.
My 1234/29 not to N.O.I.C. Kilindini.
Ship in paragraph (1)(C) is proceeding in execution of previous orders.
(C.in C. E.I., 1436Z/29, to East Indies Sqdn.)

/ Air Report .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Air Report. Summary No.200 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 29/12. 0955 G.M.T. three Blenheims 8 Squadron attacked M.T. repair shops Camboleia (Dessie). Two Blenheims 203 Squadron provided fighter escorts for convoy B.N.12. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1726/29).

China.

My 09042/28. Following is from Governor Straits Settlements and C.in C. China in continuation.

Indo-China, relations. Our impression is that combined effects of Allied successes against Italy and Trade restrictions against Indo China have brought Decoux to consider how far he can withdrawn from Anti-British policy, born of bitterness of Oran and fostered by pressure of Japan and Armistice commission. Both he and Vichy are inclined to show a little more independence of policy as chance of an early Axis victory recedes, and French Community in Indo-China realizes, though some show of co-operation with Japan and Vichy is necessary for their independent political existence, co-operation with us is equally necessary for their economic existence. An open policy of co-operation with us is hardly to be expected, but they have not yet succumbed to policy of complete subservience to Japan. Out two main needs are trade with Indo China and maintenance of a Regime there with some independence of Japan. Since these are also their own needs there exists a basis of co-operation. If we are too uncompromising there is yet danger they may be forced into arms of Japan. (C.in C. China, 08212/29 to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

HOPEPEAK
KOTA AGUNG

My 1041/21. Both ships arrived Panama. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 2219/29).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.12.1940. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Raiders. My 07002/27. Amendments and additions to raider descriptions and intelligence of movements. (A.C.N.B., 20002/29 to Admty., etc.) Original in Lion copy only.

Nauru Raider. Your telegram No. 257. (regret to learn of attack on Nauru). Acting Resident Commissioner Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony reports no sign of raider yet observed in Ocean Island and that immediate crisis is passed. Precautions however are being maintained.
Telegram from Australian Commonwealth Naval Board indicates great material damage done but no casualties, also that raider bore Japanese name and markings.
Following telegram subsequently received from Admiralty Reporting Officer, Nauru, through Australian Commonwealth Naval Board (repeats A.C.N.B. 20402/27 to Admty. etc.)
(High Commissioner, Western Pacific, No.275, 29/12, to Colonial Office, recd. 0804/29).

HOBART
MANOORA
DOOMBA

HOBART departed Fremantly 26/12 for Sydney.
MANOORA departed Samarai 29/12 for Ocean Is.
DOOMBA departed Sydney 29/12 for Hobart.
(A.C.N.B. 13252/29 to Admty. etc.).

U.S.9. My 0713 18/11 and New Zealand Naval Board 0131/4. U.S.9. Troop commitments Australian 11714 New Zealand 3770 with approximately 320 R.A.N. 220 R.A.A.F. additional and possibly 300 New Zealand Naval ratings. NIEUW AMSTERDAM allotted to New Zealand, QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA will embark Sydney, MAURETANIA Melbourne.
(A.C.N.B. 13312/29 to D. of S.T.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Sunday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

REX. Your 1330/20 (Asking name of Italian ship at Trieste).
(C.in C. A.W.I., 0923/29 to Admty.)

LELLO. Departure 28/12. Italian Ship LELLO for Valencia. (Barcelona, 1259/29).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ARACATACA (torpedoed 29/11) My 2140/23 all survivors left today Sunday in ANDALUCIA STAR. (N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires 2052/29 to Admty.)

1115/28. (?U-Boat) was in position (?056 degrees) 29' North 013 degrees 00' West at 1115/28. (MARSDALE, 0914/29, to F.O.C.N.P.)

0446. D/F bearings at 0446/29 G.M.T. indicate a U-Boat still operating in the Freetown-Cape Verde area. (D.D.I.C. 0941/29).

My 0941/29. Add - Simonstown 317/2 Durban 319/3.

D/F bearings indicates that U-Boat possibly within 50 miles of Monrovia. On way to meet convoy carry out Anti-submarine sweep parallel to coast 20 to 30 miles north from coast. (C.in C. S.A. to ASPHODEL, CALENDULA, 1015 M/29).

Unknown originator Ref. 0914 (Presumably 0914/29 from "MARSDALE" reporting U-Boat). Request degree of accuracy of position given. Commodore of ship has reported being bombed in position 055 degrees 34' 009 degrees 27'. (WELLINGTON, 1131/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

1712. My 1234/29. D/F bearings at 1712/29 confirm presence of U/Boat between 58° N. and 59° N. and W. of 20° W. (D.D.I.C. 1742/29).

My 2154/29. Unless you have definite evidence that you are in contact with U-Boat proceed to rejoin convoy at 0600/30. (C.in C. Rosyth 2258/29 to FOXTROT).

Submarines Reported.

2245. By D/F at 2245/29, position of unknown enemy unit, probable U Boat was about 260 miles S.W. of Lands End. (D.D.I.C. 2349/29).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian.
1 was in about 39° N. 15° W. on 27th.
1 to eastward of Azores.
1 arriving Gironde to-day.
4 in N.W. Approaches probably between 54° N. and 57° N. 15° W. and 16° 30' W.

/ German. ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Estimated U/B dispositions. (contd.)

German.
1 between Freetown and Cape de Verde Islands
1 may be about 46° N. 9° W. bound for Lorient.
1 between 55° 30' N. and 56° 30' N. 12° W. and 14° W.
1 possibly within 60 miles of Bloody Foreland.
1 between 57° 30' N. and 59° N. 15° W. and 17° W.
2 between 58° N. and 60° N. 20° W. and 22° W.
1 south of Iceland.
1 possibly about 60° N. 10° W. homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1234/29).

Submarines Attacked.

By TUNA. 18/12.

TUNA reports at 0430/18 in position 045° 28' N. 002° 27' W. attacked U.Boat possibly German with torpedo and gun. U Boat steering North apparently making rendezvous was hit not vitally by one Shell and was chased for 53 minutes. Two Escort vessels then arrived and forced TUNA to dive. At 2314/18 in position 045° 26' N. 001° 38' W. sank by gunfire armed Tug steering 190°.
Intense A/S activity by air, trawlers, and 3 German Minesweepers M. one class on 17/12. Seaplane patrol encountered as far as 75 miles Southwest of Whistle Buoy.
(V.A.S., 1019/29, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30. 10. 40.
Monday.

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HOME COMMAND.

Policy.

"STORM" Messages.

It has been agreed with Ministry of Shipping, and War Office have been informed semi officially, that Admiralty will inform all above addressees of circumstances liable to make a considerable change in the importance of any area of Naval interest so that all concerned may make any changes necessary to take special defensive measures.

2. Information will be sent by Most Secret Message in following form:-
Prefix "Storm".
(a) Place.
(b) Cause of change in importance.
(c) Commencing date.
(d) Ending date.
(e) Special requirements if any.
(D. of L.D. 1958/30 to Air Ministry, War Office, Fighter Command, [illegible]/A Command, Home Forces.)

Oil-Fuel for Swedish Navy.

Suggesting that occasional rations of Oil-Fuel be allowed to Sweden for her Navy. Reasons. (N.A. Stockholm 1528/30. to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

BELFAST.

At 1130/30. (D.C. 1156/30.)
At 2330/30. (D.C. 2339/30.)

Dover. Withdrawal of Guns.

My 1820/27 and your 2246/27. Details of Transfer. (D. of L.D. 1321/30, to C.-in-C. Home Forces.) Your 1820/27. War Office concur. Please arrange direct with Home Forces and keep informed. (Seacoast Four 1550/30 to Adty.)

Movements.

BALMORAL, OAKLAND.

Sailed am by F.O.C.N.P. 1830/28 and 1838/28. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0034/30.)

BULLDOG.

Sailed for Liverpool (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0654/30.) Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1335/30.)

BROKE.

Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0945/30.)

BELFAST/

MOST SECRET.

30. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. Contd.

WOLFE.
CILICIA. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1000/30.)

REPULSE.
ESKIMO.
SOMALI.
MATABELE. My position course and speed are at 0800/30 060° 09' North 014° 56' West 110° 17 knots with two destroyers in company. Detached ESKIMO Escort for WORCESTERSHIRE at 1800/29 in position 060° 05' North 021° 50' West course 056° 14 knots, ordered escort her to Minches and then return to Scapa. (REPULSE 1043/30 to A.C.O.S.)

Expect arrive with SOMALI and MATABELE at 0500/31. (REPULSE 1826/30 to A.C.O.S.)

AUSTRALIA. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1318/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines today. 5 Trawlers. (A. C. O. S. 1536/30.)

WIDGEON. Arrived 1532. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1537/30.)

FITZROY. Sailed 1715. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1743/30.)

ANTELOPE.
WESTCOTT,
VISCOUNT. Entered, fuelled, and sailed. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1809/30.)

LA CAPRICIEUSE. Sailed for Barrow to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1214/30. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1835/30.)

KASHMIR.
JUPITER,
JERSEY. Arrived Plymouth 1729/30. (C. in C. W.A. 0036/31.)

Operations.

Dover. Enemy Coastal Batteries fired 4 rounds into the sea between 0900 and 0910 today. (V.A. Dover 1734/30.)

Northern Patrol/

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

Northern Patrol.

NIGERIA leave Patrol at 1600/30 and return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1030/30 to F.O. 10th C.S.)

Submarines.

TUNA.
Armed Tug sunk.

At 2314/18 sunk by gunfire an Armed Tug in 45° 38' N. 1° 58' W. (TUNA 0100/30 to Capt. S.S.)

UNDAUNTED.

Arrived with LA CAPRICIEUSE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0940/30.)

L. 23.

Will be exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A. C. C. S. 1140/30.)

UNBEATEN.

Sy 1443/30. Sailed 1815 for Dartmouth, escorted by PHILANTE. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1235/30.)

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F. O. I. C. Greenock 1450/30.)

H.44.

Request be sailed for Rothesay with despatch on completion. (Capt. S.7. 1513/30 to Cdre. Sheerness.)

SEANOLF.

Sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1557/30.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/31. (V.A.S. 1734/30 and 2301/30.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Patrols ordered today: STAB. at 0930, BERE, STAND, HORNLI all F.H. C. in C. Rosyth 0730/30.)
Sy 1706/30. Both Patrols cancelled today owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 0745/30. Patrol UNIT. has returned to Base owing to weather (C. in C. Rosyth 1114/30.) Sy 0730. All Patrols cancelled owing to low visibility. (C. in C. Rosyth 1810/30.)

Bordeaux.

217 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's and Shipping at Bordeaux. Alternative Target, Brest. (H. C. C. C. 1300/30 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

FLUSHING/

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity Contd.

Flushing. 55 and 99 Squadrons to attack tonight the two Train-Ferries reported in Verbendings Canal, Flushing. (H.Q.C.C. 1302/30 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Chan A/A Defence of Convoy Anchorage. Admiralty 1317/29. No action can be taken on two (B)until local reconnaissance now being carried out is complete. Point at para. two (A) of Admiralty signal being included in general review of air defence of West Coast of Scotland. (Air Ministry 1920/30 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

North Foreland. Air-attack Automatic Signal heard at 0656, strength 2, bearing 135°. (North Foreland 0704/30.)

Deptford. About 2010/29 one H.E. Bomb fell in East Pond and another next to War Department, and several Incendiary Bombs. Considerable damage, to buildings, no apparent damage to stores. (Supt. N.Y. Deptford.)(1446/30 to Adty.)

Mining.

VERENIQUE. Damaged by Mine at 1120/30 abreast B.S. Buoy entering Queens Channel. No casualties and not leaking. Now in tow. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1514/30.) Berthed in Gladstone Dock. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2005/30.)

DORCASIA. (British Tanker, 8065 Tons.) Damaged by Mine at 1030/30 about 4 miles 250° from Bar Light Vessel and 1.8 miles South of Swept Channel. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1514/30.)

CALCIUM. (Steam Coaster) Mined at 0545/30 in 53° 26' N. 3° 46' W. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1514/30.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. contd.

Operation O.C.B. Completed. (ADVENTURE. 1436/30.)

Operations
S.N.6.
SN.65. Your 1046/28.
1. Position for S.N.6 is concurred in.
2. Initial position for S.N.65 should be 61° degrees 12' N. 06° 40' W. to afford maximum facilities to Faeroese line fishing interests.

Aberdeen Area. 3. Proposed date is concurred in subject to the availability of escort and covering force, on which point C. in C.H.F. is requested to remark.(V.C.N.S. 1617/30 to R.A.M.L.)

Search of War Channel. Weather permitting intend sailing 19th M/S Group to R/V 090° Cruden Scaurs 22° 6' at 1000/31, thence search war channel east side ahead of S.N.49.to 000° Kinnaird Head 14' arriving 1700/31, returning searching West side of War channel ahead of W N 61 to Cruden Scaurs. E.T.A. 0001/1.(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1701/30. to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coast. At 0111/30 position of Enemy Surface Unit, probably Destroyer or larger, was between Haugesund and Egersund. D/F unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0201/0.)

Unidentified Ship. One small slow Vessel bearing South 11 miles from Sumburgh and steering about 150° at 0100/30. (A.C.O.S.1309/30.)

Kiel Canal. Further statement in Press that maximum draft now allowed in Kiel Canal is 5 metres until obstruction can be cleared. (N.A. Stockholm 1915/30.)

MOST SECRET.

30. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BODMANT.
British, 6342 Tons.
CITY OF BEDFORD.
British, 6466 Tons.

BODMANT in collision. (Portishead Radio 0829/30.) CITY OF BEDFORD in collision (Plymouth W/T. 0841/30.) Detach 2 ships to assist. Collision in probably 59° 54' N. 21° W. (C.in C.W.A.1006/30 to WHITEHALL) If not required by TREVARRACK and SALVONIA, proceed to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to ADMIRALTY) CITY OF BEDFORD reports latitude as 58° 40' N. (C. in C. W.A. 1040/30 to WHITEHALL) Sailing DILIGENT from Campbeltown at 1130 to assist (N.O.I.C.Greenock 1800/30 to C. in C. W.A.) Sailed TENACITY at 1130 from Campbeltown to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1800/30 to C. in C. W.A.) C. in C. W.A.1006/30. ANCHISES proceed with despatch to BODMANT and GENTIAN to CITY OF BEDFORD. (WHITEHALL 1804/30.) BODMANT proceeding Reykjavik if possible (BODMANT 1813/30.) Making water fast in No.1 hold. Position 58° 40'N. 21° 30' W. S.O.S. (BODMANT. Recd. 1407/30.)

BODMANT abandoned. Sinking fast. All crew safe on board OPORTO. (Port Patrick Radio 0432/31.) OPORTO arrived Reykjavik 1800 G.M.T. (F.O. Iceland 1402/1 to Adty.)

BARON ARDROSSAN.

(British, 3696 Tons) Your 0737/30 and 0824/30. Tug SUPERMAN sailed to assist. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0856/30 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) Tug SCHELDE sailed Oban 0850 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1003/30 to C. in C. W.A.) SCHELDE reports at 1716 ship well aground on rocks at Gaundray and abandoned. SCHELDE returning Oban. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1330/30.)

H. 51.

(Submarine) Request docking in Clyde Area for 3 or 4 days after 10/1 to repair recent flooding damage to engine-room. (S.7.1229/30 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

[illegible].

D/S defective. Have anchored to repair. ([illegible] 1535/30 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

([illegible], 824 Tons.)

SCHELDE's and SUPERMAN's 1330/30. Proceed to assistance of S.S. AGATE aground in vicinity of Caul Point 7 miles North of Oversay Light. If no assistance can be given return Campbeltown and report situation.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2300/30 to SCHELDE.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.G. 48	Sailed at 2315/29. Escort FOLKESTONE from Liverpool (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0012/30)
H.X. 101	Your 1834/28. Date and route. (C. O.A.C. Halifax 1122/30 to Admty.)
S.C. 16	Estimated position at 1200/30. (C. in C., W.A. to LADY MADELINE 1126/30)
W.N. 61	My 1500/29 Read 23 ships sailed not 20. (N.C.S.O. 1145/30) List (1200/30)
B.H.X. 100	Departure, ocean escort MONTCLARE, returning Bermuda (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 1133/30)
B.H.X. 101	Draft (List) (Navy Control Bermuda 1201/30)
O.G.O. 48	Sailed 0500/30. Escort BLUEBELL 6 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban 1203/30)
W.N. 62. O.	1300/30, one H.M.T., 5 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1245/30) No escort 5 ships Sound of Mull (N.C.S.O. Oban 1541/30)
O.B.O. 267	0345/31 Escort HEARTSEASE. 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1255/30)
E.N. 47	Arrived, 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1400/30)
W.N. 62	1200/30. H.M.T. KING SOL 3 ships including H.M.S. MANCHESTER CITY (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1435/30)
O.B. 267	Sailed 1400/30. 7 ships (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1506/30)
F.S. 75	Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1514/30)
W.N. 63	Code "Material" 1900/1. H.M.T. HUGH PENTLAND FIRTH, 10 ships N.C.S.O. 1541/30)
F.S. 72	My 1514/30. LONDON QUEEN and WESTBURN and CHATWOOD now reported arrived. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1611/30)
O.B. 270	1330/5/1. Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1641/30)
O.B. 269	1130/3/1. Route (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1642/30)

/F.S. 73.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	Shipping
F.S. 73	All ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1644/30)
S.L.S. 58	Arrived 5 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1800/30)
S.L. 59	Meet (List) (C. in C., W.A., 1908/30 to MALLOW, NORTHERN PRIDE, ARABIS, NORTHERN DAWN, CLARKIA, ST. ELSTAN, SKATE, MAN O'WAR, SCIMITAR)
E.N. 49	1830/30. H.M.T.'s CAPE MARIATO, BERKSHIRE, additional escort FLEETWOOD) 24 ships, (N.C.S.O. Methil 1925/30)
H.X. 98	Sailing 1200 G.M.T/2. Route (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1500/30)
F.N. 70	Humber 30/12 departure O.B.V. CORINTHIAN to join F.N. 70 for Methil and onward routeing to Clyde at 0330. (F.O.Humber, 0915/30)
3 M.V's.	My 1004/29 to N.O.I.C. Barry only. SS ANTONIA and SS AGATHA and one Greek M/V if she arrives in time, are to be sailed to R/V with RUBY (S.O.) and JASPER in position 300 degs. Trevose Head 5 miles at 1400/31. RUBY and JASPER are then to escort the former two to Brixham and the latter to be detached for Dartmouth. Fighter cover has been requested. Code word "Major" (C. in C., W.A., 1104/30)
O.B. 267	Escort for O.B. 267. HOLLYHOCK from Liverpool AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, MARGUERITE, LADY LILIAN from Clyde and H.M.S. HEARTSEASE from Oban. AMBUSCADE senior officer. (Capt. D. Greenock, 1138/30)
W.N. 62.	Sailed MANCHESTER CITY in convoy W.N. 62 in accordance with my 1230/27. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1210/30)
E.N. 49	Weather permitting intend sailing 12th M/S group R/V Scurdy Ness at 2300/30 search east side War Channel ahead of E.N. 49 to Cruden Scaurs then return to Aberdeen. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1231/30 to C. in C., Rosyth)
S.L. 59	Meet S.L. 59 24 ships unescorted 1000/1/1/41 (Route) (C. in C., W.A., 1252/30 to MALLOW, ARABIS, CLARKIA, SKATE, SCIMITAR, CATHAY for Commodore.)
	C. in C., S.A. 1231/14. Leave S.L. 59 in time to pass through 56° 00' N., 18° 00' W at 1900 B.S.T./31 then (route) (C. in C., W.A., 1326/30 to CATHAY)

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.	Shipping
2.....	Your 1104/30. Convoy telegram Commodore in ANTONIA (route) (N.C.S.O. Barry 1603/30 to C. in C., W.A.)
W.N. 61	Your 1300 (N/T in War Reg.) not to A.C.O.S. If necessary proceed to Scapa to await W.N. 61. (C. in C., Rosyth 1631/30 to JASON)
H.G. 49	Gibraltar departure 30/12. 1800 KINGSTON TOPAZ to join H.G. 49 daylight 2/1. (S.O.I. Gib., 1802/30)
S.C. 16	Position 1800 (129°) 16' W., 013° 30' W., S.C. 16 not met. Request instructions. (LADY MADELEINE, 1835/30 to C. in C., W.A.)
Route from R.V.	My 1848/30. In order to provide against the possibility of the Commodore of an inward bound convoy failing to receive the signal giving him the onward route from the R/V it is requested that this route as far as the splitting point may always be given to the Commodore before sailing and communicated to me. (C. in C., W.A., 1850/30 to Admty.)
W.N. 63	Sailed A/S Trawlers HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH for W.N. 63 E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0900/31 (N.O.I.C. Belfast 2028/30)
Oban Anchorage	Your 1911/24. My 1530/25 and your further 1341/28. It is intended that main convoy anchorage shall be the Lynn of Lorne between Eil Dubh and Black Island which will hold approximately thirty-five ships and that anchorage (B) in my 1530/25 will be used for surplus ships which at present average twenty. (N.O.I.C. Oban 2300/30 to Admty.)
F.S. 76	Convoy message. My 1017/27. Amend escort of F.S. 76 to read PELICAN, VANITY, WESTMINSTER. (C. in C., Rosyth 2316/30)
O.B. 267	Sailed AMBUSCADE, AMAZON, MARGUERITE and LADY LILIAN to R/V with Liverpool portion of O.B. 267. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2330/30)

/Convoy conferences.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

Convoy Conferences

Your 1853/28. Necessity for stimulating interest of masters is fully appreciated, but N.C.S.O's are much handicapped by lack of information about attacks on convoys and current tactics of U-Boats and enemy aircraft. My 1301/8 to Admty. only refers. Suggest up-to-date information on these points be promulgated frequently in NAVELS telegrams. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1022/30 to Admty.)

Stragglers from Convoys

Greater proportion of stragglers being sunk than of independently routed ships, who can be diverted at sea from known dangers because their routes are known. Essential to remove all possible causes of straggling. Independent ships attacked when a long way from route ordered. Points to impress on masters. (D.T.D. 1800/30 to N.C.S.O's)

Troop Convoys

PENNLAND

Your 1119/29. Owing to late arrival PENNLAND cannot dock today. Doubtful whether therefore any boiler cleaning can be done in time available. Further signal will be made after docking of vessel tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1216/30 to D. of S.T.)

W.S. 5 A.

Request you will report the order of Convoy W.S. 5 A. after the fast and slow portions joined up. (D.O.D. (F) 1258/30 to N.C.S.O. Liverpool)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.12.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider-Contd.

Movements etc., after Action with BERWICK on 25/12/40

VELOX
VIDETTE

Gibraltar departures 31/12 1130. VELOX, VIDETTE in accordance with my 2210/30. E.T.A. 1300 z + 1. Tuesday 7/1. (F.O.C.N.A. 1132/31 to Admty.)
Note:- To relieve FURY and FORESTER at Freetown.)

BRIDGEWATER
ASPHODEL
to escort
W.S. 5 A.

BRIDGEWATER is to sail from Freetown and ASPHODEL is to part company with DELHI, MILFORD and CALENDULA so as to R/V with convoy W.S. 5 A at 1700/4. Convoy estimated to be in position 009° 50' N., 016° 30' W at this time is routed through 008° 20' N., 015° 00' W., thence to Freetown speed of advance 10½ knots. ISIS and ENCOUNTER will be in company with convoy with other naval forces. (C. in C., S.A. 1355/31)

ISIS
ENCOUNTER

Your 1716/30 para (B) ISIS and ENCOUNTER sail from Freetown 1800/31 to R/V with W.S. 5 A 0800/2 in position 17° 50' N., 19° 50' W., It is hoped that ASPHODEL and BRIDGEWATER will R/V with W.S. 5 A 0700/4 one day out from Freetown. (C. in C., S.A. 1947/31 to Admty.)

Press
Report

Press representatives ask to be allowed to report recent attacks on Atlantic Convoys. It is assumed no mention of BONAVENTURE's part may be made but request information whether details of BERWICK's part excluding own damage may be reported. (S.O.Force H., 1434/31 to Admty.)

FORESTER
FURY

Gibraltar arrivals 1300/31. FORESTER and FURY. (S.O.I. Gib., 1442/31)

BONAVENTURE
H.T.Ships

Your 2341/27. BONAVENTURE and H.T. ships are being treated as separate units having no further connection with Force "H". Masters of ships are being instructed prepare statements of provisions fuel etc., required for Cape passage. Military personnel ex BONAVENTURE have been landed and given to believ that they will operate from Gibraltar. (S.O.Force H., 1528/31 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.12.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider

SHEFFIELD
ESSEX

Gibraltar arrival 30/12 0715, SHEFFIELD escorting SS ESSEX. (S.O.I. Gib. 0120/30)

Force H.

Gibraltar arrival 0900/30 S.O.Force H in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, FAULKNOR, DUNCAN, -FIREDRAKE, JAGUAR, HERO, HASTY. (S.O.I., Gib., 0916/30)

EMPIRE TROOPER

My 1313/29 paragraph D. EMPIRE TROOPER will sail 1930/30 (D.O.D.(F) 1000/30 to C.S. 10)

DUCHESS OF YORK

Cancel my 1707/29 to DUCHESS OF YORK only. Continue your voyage to U.K. (D.O.D. (F) 1028/30, to G.B.M.S. 1 for DUCHESS OF YORK)

EMPIRE TROOPER
Damage

Your 1158/29.
(a) Chief damage to EMPIRE TROOPER was caused by 5.9" shell hole just above water line on starboard bows, fortunately forward of collision bulkhead. Number one hold and G deck above were flooded with 700 tons (4 groups omitted) zone of bulkhead.
(b) Similar shell hit upper part of hull amidship killing two of crew. Does not affect sea worthiness.
(c) Damage to boats splinters.
As regars (a) Water is being pumped out and a plate welded over hole (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1137/30 to Admty.)

MENELAUS
COSTA RICA
ARABISTAN

Your 2157/29. MENELAUS+ and COSTA RICA last seen by Commodore at 2132/26 in position 039° 15' N., 021° 47' W., steering 175°. He considers they have gone on. ARABISTAN also hit above water line by raider may be 6000 tons ship claimed. zone + one.
(S.O. Force K., 1142/30 to Admty.)

DORSETSHIRE

Your 1142/30. Have got MENELAUS and COSTA RICA. My position course and speed are 023° 43' N., 020° 14' W., (? 249°) 23° 43' N., 020° 14' W., 356° 10 knots.
(DORSETSHIRE, 1800N/30 to S.O. Force K.)

CALIFORNIA

Admiralty 1715/29 and 2157/29. Resume your patrol. MENELAUS and COSTA RICA have been located. (D.O.D. (F) 2031/30 to CALIFORNIA)

ARK ROYAL.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.12.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A and Raider

ARK ROYAL — ARK ROYAL is at eight hours' notice for steam for four days from 1400 today Monday to make good defects. (S.O.Force H., 1437/30 to Admty.)

CYCLAMEN — For Admty. CYCLAMEN left Ponta Delgada 1800 G.M.T. 30/12. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1635/30)

Destroyers Corvettes Distribution — F.O.C.N.A's 1048/30 and C. in C., South Atlantic's 1145Z/29.
(a) F.O.C.N.A. is requested to send two Vees to Freetown to arrive as soon as possible and recall FURY and FORESTER to Gibraltar.
(b) It is hoped C. in C., S.A. can adjust movements of CALENDULA and ASPHODEL to enable them to join ISIS and ENCOUNTER as screen for W.S. 5 A.
(c) ISIS and ENCOUNTER should be used for Operation MONSOON, sailing of Force 'K' and W.S. 5 A from Freetown being delayed if necessary to await arrival of Vees.
(d) Two of the Corvettes now with C.S. 10 to be retained temporarily at Gibraltar and Vees to remain at Freetown until further orders. (D.O.D. (F) 1716/30 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C., S.A.)

My 1830/29. EMPIRE TROOPER sailed 2300 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 2115/30, to Admty.)

VELOX
VIDETTE — Your 1716/30. Intend to sail VELOX and VIDETTE a.m./31. Endurance will only allow for speed of 12 knots. Expected time of arrival 7/1/41. (F.O.C.N.A. 2210/30 to Admty

DERBYSHIRE — Expect to arrive Gibraltar 0800Z/2/1. (DERBYSHIRE, 2333/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

INDOCHINOIS — Your 1231/29. I have received no orders for repatriation of crew of INDOCHINOIS, last instructions were that they were to be interned vide Admiralty's 1004/29/10 and they are still interned at Freetown. (C.in C. S.A., 1017N/30 to Admty.)

French Floating Dock. — Your 1901/29. No objection to dock proceeding to a French Colonial Port but if it appears to be going to occupied France it should be intercepted. (V.C.N.S. 1234/30 to F.O.C.N.A.).

SFAX and tanker torpedoed. — French submarine SFAX whilst steaming on surface convoying French tanker was torpedoed about (corrupt group) 15 miles off Cape Juby. Only four of crew saved. Tanker also torpedoed and sunk, number lost not known. Request I may be permitted to inform French that this was not the work of British submarines. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1831/30 to Admty.)

Operation "Ration". — Operation "RATION" is to be put into force tomorrow 31/12 and subsequent days. There is no limit on the number of interceptions to be made but the result of each one is to be reported as quickly as possible. The fact that RENOWN will be in dock is accepted. The object of "RATION" is to prevent the French making a hole in our blockade. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1900/30 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Your 1900/30. Five destroyers will carry out this operation supported by one cruiser at short notice in harbour. This leaves no destroyer for Straits Patrol or screen for heavy ships of Force H. (F.O.C.N.A. 2324/30 to Admty.)

Vichy Ships Allowed S. of Dakar. — Your 1350/29 (Vichy warships south of Dakar to be reported). This is an important change in policy and its practical application should be clear. In future all Vichy French Warships and Merchant ships escorted by them will be allowed to pass to Ivory Coast and Dahomey. The Vichy French policy recently has been to escort Merchant ships to these ports by small warships, destroyers, sloops and possibly trawlers. None have been intercepted up to the present, but if they had been they would have been turned back. French warships until they reach neighbourhood of Cape Palmas may be going to Ivory Coast, Dahomey or to Free French West Africa. Passage to Ivory Coast and Dahomey also allows passage to Gold coast and eventually Nigeria. While there are no indications at present in this area that Vichy French are likely to make any move by sea against

/ Free French .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Contd.)

Vichy Ships Allowed S. of Dakar.

Free French West Africa, or against any of our Ports, I should like to know if there is now any Political development or background which makes such moves more unlikely and to ask that I may be informed early of any happening that may cause a change in the situation.
It has to be borne in mind that Libreville, Port Gentil, Takoradi and other Gold Coast and Nigerian Ports except Lagos have no coast defences and there are now now Naval Forces in the Free French West African Area.
(C.in C. S.A., 1907/30, to Admty.)

My 125/82 of 15/11 not held by Admiralty. Cancel para. one and substitute; (Begins) Vichy French Warships met at sea south of Dakar are to be reported. If they appear to be proceeding to any port in Free French West Africa they are to be told this cannot be permitted and if necessary force will be used to prevent it; Sen. Officer to be informed at same time that it is hoped this will be avoided. If sufficient force is not available they are to be shadowed and reported only. Ships are to be instructed to proceed to any Vichy French Port north of Ivory Coast, fuelling if necessary at a British Port. If ships agree to proceed as directed they are to be shadowed until further instructions are received. Endeavour is to be made to obtain a definite guarantee from S.O. that he will proceed as directed and if obtained this is to be reported.
If destination of Vichy forces met is not clear, ships are to remain in company until further instructions are received. (Ends).
The effect of this is that Vichy French Warships and Vichy French Warships with escorted Merchant Ships may be allowed to proceed Dahomey and Ivory Coast and any other Vichy territory.
(C.in C. S.A., 2001M/30, to S.A.Station).

North Atlantic.

Force "H". duties

A. My 1724/28 June is cancelled.
B. F.O.C.N.A. is responsible for preventing passage of the Straits of Gibraltar by all enemy vessels and by vessels of other nations as may be ordered by the Admiralty from time to time.
C. Whilst Force H is based at Gibraltar F.O.C.N.A. is to call upon S.O. Force H for such assistance as may be necessary.

/ Except ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Force "H" duties. (contd.)

Except when directed to carry out specific tasks by the Admiralty the S.O. Force H is to comply with such requests so far as he is able but if, owing to conflicting claims, he is unable to do so, the Admiralty should be informed.
D. Force H is available for operations in the Mediterranean as agreed to by Admiralty and as mutually arranged by C.in C. Mediterranean and S.O. Force H. It will be lent temporarily to the Mediterranean Station when thus employed.
E. S.O. Force H. remains responsible for the administration of Foce H and for its tactical employment during operations whether acting under the strategical control of Admiralty or C.in C. Mediterranean, or in compliance with the requests of F.O.C.N.A.
(1 S.L. 1152/30 to Flag Officers, Home and Abroad).

OLYMPUS, Azores.

V.A.(S) 1121/13. Intend to sail OLYMPUS for Azores Patrol p.m./2 to arrive patrol a.m./7.
(Capt. S.S. 0952/30 to Admty. F.O.C.N.A.)

Trawlers.

There may be doubt about Kingston trawlers' endurance being sufficient for whole trip at convoy speed. If this is the case they are to be detached as requisite.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1246/30 to LEITH).

Raider Report. NALGORA

Following has been read:
37.22 N. 21.50 W. NALGORA (Valentia Radio, 1434/30).

Following has been read.
QQQQ. 37. 22 N., 21.50, followed.
(Valentia Radio, T.O.R. 1449/30).

Following has been read.
37.22 N. 21.50 W., NALGARA still being followed. (Valentia, 1512/30. G.M.T.)

Raider reported at 1434 by NALGORA was H.M.S.DERBYSHIRE.
(DERBYSHIRE, 1511/30, to Admty.)

Following has been read.
R R R R cancel 1430/30 D E M U D J
(Scapa W/T, T.O.R. 1725/30).

Raider reports 1434, 1512 and 1449/30 are now cancelled and referred to DERBYSHIRE. (D.C. 1929/30).

/ Air Report ....

MOST SECRET.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Air Reports.

Daily summary operations. 2 routine A.S. patrols. 1 surface recco east 2 special reccos. to the west in search of French Floating Dock last seen 180 Tarifa 6 at 1730 29/12, steering 270 degrees at 3 to 4 K S. Area covered 8-30 degrees west to 4 degrees west. (200 Group, 1705/30, to Air Min.)

KINGSTON TOPAZE.

KINGSTON TOPAZE sailed 1800/30 (route) until she joins H G 49 which it is estimated she will do during daylight 2/1.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1820/30 amended 1112/31).

South Atlantic.

Admiralty Signals.

Admiralty General Message 642A of 26/12/40. Transmissions of Admiralty General Messages Basegrams at 1100 and 1900 are to be read by ships in Area 9 and when East of Line joining Takoradi and Lobito on South Atlantic Station. W/T silence is not to be broken to ask for repetitions of messages missed at these transmissions.
(D.S.D. 1734/30. Admty. General Message).

Duala.

N.C.S. Officer Duala's 0943/28 has been passed to Admiralty for information. Further enquiries are being made.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1093/30 to Admty.)

Walvis Bay.

Your 2318/15 (Proposal to use Walvis Bay as a bunkering Station). Para.4. Suggest that use of Walvis Bay shall begin as soon as required. Very desirable that ships bunkering at Walvis Bay shall also complete with ice fresh meat butter and vegetables in order to reduce demands on limited supplies at Freetown. N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1702/24 is passed to you. Request A/S components be sent as early as possible, but consider use of Walvis Bay need not wait for M.T.S's and A/S vessels.
(C.in C. S.A., 1821/30 to Admty.)

Convoy W.S.8A.

My 1744/27. Estimated bunker requirements are as follows:- (list)
(D.S.T., 1954/30 to C.in C's, S.A., E.I., Med., etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.12.1940. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

"Q" Report, ALGIC.

Received 1952 G.M.T. 8333 kcs de KDDC (s.s. ALGIC) Lat. 25.03 South Long 1.10 East sighted suspicious vessel, large white painted, built similar to tanker, surrounded by four small craft, apparently submarines, heading Southeast direction. Owing to distance from us we are unable to give better description. Master s.s. ALGIC (Ends) KDDC was calling ZBV without success after which message passed to GKT with request to relay.
(Portishead Radio, T.M.I. 2056/30, to Admty.)

From War Registry.
Message received from Portishead radio 2056/30/12 sighting of suspicious vessel by S.S. ALGIC has been passed to C.in C. South Atlantic repeated Force L for information under T.O.O. 2250/30/12.

2040 G.M.T. 12360 kcs. DE KDDC to WSL. Here copy of message I gave to GKT. KDDC then repeats message referring to suspicious vessel reported in my message timed 8.56 P.M.
(Portishead Radio, T.M.I. 2147/30).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Tobruk.

Our A.894 29/12 (Refers to 1414/29) Correct paragraph one as follows after 1940 "One Egypt. Night of 26/27 Sec. One Wellington bombed Tobruk". (H.Q. RAF. M.E. 0135/30).

Air Report. Naples attack.

I. 190 30/12. Special Operational Summary night 29-30/12. 7 Wellingtons 48 Squadron despatched in 2 Echelons to attack battleships at Naples. 1900, 5 Wellingtons dropped 9000 lbs S.A.P. from varying heights 5 to 10000 feet. All sticks aimed across customs and other jetties. Red glow was seen on west end of customs jetty. 2315. Second attack by 2 Wellingtons dropping 4500 lbs. S.A.P. from 11000 feet. All bursts near customs jetty. Detailed results not observed due to intense A.A. fire from shore and shipping but mostly inaccurate. 1 A/C received 2 hits from shrapnel sustaining slight damage. Battleships and destroyers appeared to have steam up. Photographic reconnaissance is now being carried out.
(H.Q. Med., 0730/30 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

Suda Bay.

Sunday 29/12. GLOUCESTER and YORK arrived 1445 and sailed 2240 and 2035 respectively. CALCUTTA arrived 1750. PEONY SALVIA and HYACINTH arrived 1815.
(S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 0809/30).

Sollum Cable.

Three Commanders-in-Chief have agreed Alexandria - Sollum Cable is urgent requirement. Confirm earliest date possible for diversion. Ref. our X./30817 of 18/12 will Cables and Wireless Ltd. find personnel equipment etc. or will Marconi, Egypt offer stand temporarily?
(C. in C. M.E. 0950/30 to W.O).

Submarines return to U.K.

A.T. 2237/13/12. Following is proposed programme of return of O.P. and R. Class Submarines to U.K. allowance being made for 2 Submarines refitting concurrently 1st PROTEUS,

/OSIRIS.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Submarines return to U.K.

OSIRIS. 2nd PARTHIAN, PANDORA. 3rd REGENT, ROVER. 4th OTUS, OLYMPUS. 5th PERSEUS. ROQUAL has not been included but if required for these modifications would refit with REGENT ROVER with OTUS, and OLYMPUS with PERSEUS. Proposed that OSIRIS should relive PANDORA in 8th Flotilla and that PROTEUS should return to 1st Flotilla.
(Capt. S.I. 1247/30 to C. in C. Med).

Air Report Libya.

Operational Summary No. 203 up to 1200 30/12.
1. EGYPT day 29/12. Tmimi and Derna landing grounds bombed by six Blenheims each and Gazala Satellite by three. 2 small fires started at Tmimi target straddled at Gazala. Results unobserved at Derna owing to cloud. Standing patrol of 6 Fighters maintained throughout the day over Sollum by Hurricanes and Gladiators. Reccos. reported no movements between Bardia and Tobruk. No change in military situation Bardia.

Valona.

2. GREECE day 29/12. 6 Blenheims in 2 flights of 3 aircraft dropped 6000 lbs. of bombs on Valona straddling troops and M.T. vehicles on road leading from jetty and starting one fire. Other bombs hit buildings and started one large fire in a warehouse. Two cargo boats in harbour also machine gunned. One Blenheim hit by intense pom pom fire subsequently crashed in sea. Tdw of crew escaping by parachute. One submarine was observed in harbour. One Sunderland searched South Eastern Ionian Sea for enemy shipping.

/Movements....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Movements.

Summary no. 179. Eastern Mediterranean Submarine patrol. TRUANT off Tripoli (Libya); OTUS, PARTHIAN, TETRARCH from Malta arriving (? Cape Carthage) Palermo, Calabria and Gulf of Taranto late 31st. PANDORA leaves Alexandria 1700/30 proceed Western Mediterranean to the Narrows night of 7th/8th. 3rd C.S. leaves Piraeus P.M./30 to arrive Alexandria 1700/30 proceed Western Mediterranean to The Narrows night of 7th/8th. 3rd C.S. leaves Piraeus P.M./30 to arrive Alexandria A.M./1. AJAX, PERTH leave Alexandria A.M./31 to arrive Suda Bay A.M./1 Piraeus P.M./1. GALLANT leaves Alexandria P.M./30 arriving Port Said A.M./31 sailing with ULSTER PRINCE P.M./31 to pass through Kaso Straits night 1st/2nd arriving Suda Bay A.M./2. DAINTY and convoy leave Port Sail P.M./30 to arrive Alexandria A.M./31. CALCUTTA, three Corvettes left Suda Bay A.M./30 to arrive Alexandria, CALCUTTA A.M./31 Corvettes P.M./31 TERROR from Sollum expected Alexandria A.M./31.
(C. in C. Med, 1307/30).

TRIUMPH "U" class.

Your 1033/27 (re H.M.S. TRIUMPH and 3 U class submarines joining 1 S.F.) Yes.
(D.O.D.(F) 1715/30 to C. in C. Med)

S/M Patrols. PARTHIAN. TETRARCH.

My 1649/25. Object of Patrol as in operation B S. paragraph seven. Enemy shipping is believed to follow coastal route which is generally parallel to and within five miles of coast. Route is approached at various points through definite sectors, known sectors being as follows (i) Between bearing 146° and 156° from 151° Santa Maria Di Leuca six. (ii) Between bearing 077° and 087° from 082° Crotone light seven.
(iii) Between bearing 170° and 190° from 180 Capo Dell Arwi light 4. TETRACH is to divide her time between northern and southern end of her area. Submarine will probably leave Patrol TETRACH 10th PARTHIAN 11th January.
(Capt S.I. 1355/30 to PARTHIAN, TETRARCH).

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

Malta Air Raid.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700 hours 30/12. All times G.M.T.
Part 1. 1044 to 1120 formation of 3 79's and 4 fighters approached from north at 17,000 feet and bombed Luqa three bombs falling on aerodrome. This raid was followed by two other formations indicated to be large, One of these turned back 8 miles N.E. of Grand Harbour. The other came to 38 miles nath and turned back. First formation heavily engaged by A.A. no hits claimed. Second formation engaged at extreme range. Six Hurricanes up but did not engage first formation. They were instructed to position themselves for the second and larger formation. All raiders went out north. Two Wellingtons U/S at the time on ground at Luqa damaged by splinters. A third Wellington slightly damaged now serviceable. No damage to civilian property. Two children slightly injured by falling shrapnel.

Naples, Kecco.

Part II. 0615 to 1155 Glenn Martin photographic reconnaissance Naples for shipping and results of Wellington operations against ships in Naples harbour night 29/30 Dec. reported in my 1.190 30/12. In harbour one Littorio battleship and one Cavour battleship, 3 8-inch cruisers, 1 6-inch cruiser, 5 destroyers, 1 large M/V 14,000 tons with noticeable list. 3 M/V's 7,000 tons and large number smaller M/V's up to 2,000 tons. 1 6-inch cruiser and 1 destroyer entering harbour. Reconnaissance carried out from 13,000 feet. Effects of last night's attack could not be assessed by visual reconnaissance and photos were unsuccessful. 2 flights of Macchi 200's seen patrolling west of Vesuvius. Glenn Martin was higher and out-distanced them. No A.A. on return flight. One unidentified submarine on surface 8 miles N.E. of Cape Farina course N.E. over speed 7 knots.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1730/30).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Trincomalee Resources.

Your 1927/18 para. (ii) and my 0958/24. Consider it is highly advisable to supplement water resources at Trincomalee. (ii) Available at Calcutta large Molasses barges convertible to water fighter capacity about 900 tons pumps capacity about 100 tons per hour agent for owners willing to sell. Cost to build in 1936 rupees 153,000. Intend to charter for one year or failing that to purchase on best terms. Request covering approval. (C.in C. E.I., 0849Z/30).

RANCHI.

To leave Durban p.m./31 and proceed through position 03°0 S. 033° E. towards position 032° S. 040° E. at 12 knots. (C.in C. E.I., 0702Z/30, to RANCHI).

Raider.

Correct 1312/29 (description of raider in Gulf of Aden) mast on poop calswing bridge. (C.in C. E.I., 1102Z/30).

Abadan, COCKCHAFER

You will have seen from information from sure sources that Italians may be contemplating raid on Abadan and Shat El Arab area. Understand C.in C. East Indies had already arranged with S.N.O.P.G. for COCKCHAFER to be moored in vicinity of Abadan. A.O.C. 'Iraq should warn A.I.O.C. authorities and ensure that air raid precautions are enforced, especially blackout. Two Gladiators from Habbaniya might be sent to Shaibah but do not consider these could be effective without R.D.F. (Air Ministry, 1630/30, to H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.).

Air Report.

Summary No. 201 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 30/12. 0515 to 0755 one Blenheim 8 Squadron made armed photographic reconnaissance Somaliland photographic scrutiny awaited. Following noted visually. In Berbera harbour 12 small craft. Several small craft in Zeilat harbour. At Jibouti 30 to 40 small craft in harbour and one M/V at end of pier. Attacked buildings alongside Zeilah landing ground at 0735. Damage observed from low level stick of 250 pounders and incendiaries. Three Blenheim 203 Squadron provided fighter escort for convoy B.N.12 one using advanced base Kamaran and remaining overnight. All times G.M.T. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1733/30).

/ Indian Minesweepers ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Indian Minesweepers. Your 0601/29. In view of intention to build the Additional BANGOR/BATHURSTS which it is recommended should be equipped with 'LL' sweep Mark V Star in addition to CROMER no necessity is seen for increase of number of Motor Minesweepers from 8 to 10.
(D.N.S. 1850/30 to F.O.C. E.I.F.)

Japanese Contraband Traffic, Kismayu. Following received from Forces Nairobi. (Begins) Statement from prisoner captured El Wak operation confirms Japanese ships have been using Kismayu and possibly occasionally Mogadiscio. Also statement that Japanese ships unload into dhows off Italian Somaliland coast under cover of darkness. Indications are that possibly 3 Japanese ships have entered Kismayu since outbreak of Italian war. General cargoes are petrol lubricating oil, tyres, and M.T. spares. Consider this breaking of blockade is most serious and unlikely to be stopped by periodical bombardment of Kismayu. Insufficient aircraft available to maintain frequent off-shore patrols. Request you pass information to C.in C. East Indies with urgent representations to stop this traffic. One prisoner states 45 British naval officers and 250 men in Mogadiscio. These assumed to be mercantile officers and men. T.O.O. 0915/28. (Ends).
(Mid-east N.I., East Indies 1935Z/30 to C.in C. E.I.)

China.

TALLEYRAND . Your 1630 26 (re date TALLEYRAND captured) Reporting Officer Kobe reports unable to obtain reliable information re. date from officers ex OLE JACOB and TEDDY.
(S.O.I. Shanghai, 0757Z/30 to Admty.)

AUTOMEDON, capture of currency. Following capture of AUTOMEDON 11/11 some 80 packages described as small mail bags were seen by Norwegian prisoner being transferred to raider. From statements later by officer of raider that six million dollars in notes had been taken it appears possible that entire contents of strong room were transferred to raider. Local agents have not details of contents but confirm large quantity of un-issued Malayan currency was amongst cargo. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1006Z/30, to Admty.)

Indo-China. Schompre to De Gaulle. Anti-British feeling. Decoux giving in to Japanese. Thailand-Indo China incidents. (C.in C. China, 0613Z/30). Original in Lion copy only.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Enemy Unit.

A.1 information received of D/F bearing of German warship 104 degrees from coast-guard station at Southampton Long Island (Four miles east of Shittbruneck Light) at 1200/29 zone plus five. Frequency unknown. (N.A. Washington, 1731/30 to Admty.)

DIOMEDE.

My 1001/26 (Patrol orders for DIOMEDE). Fuel on 1/1/41 and resume patrol. Leave patrol so as to arrive Bermuda 7/1. Oiler BISHOPDALE is to be sailed for Bermuda on completion of fuelling on 1/1. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1012/30 to DIOMEDE).

HAMILTON stranding.

My 1239/21/12 (re payment for repairs to HAMILTON). Would appreciate confirmation if my assumption is correct.
(C.N.S. Canada, 1232/30 to Admty.)

H.X.100.

H.X.100 ocean escort COMORIN subsequently returning to Halifax.
(F.O. 3 B.S. 1607/30, to Admty.)

410. Your 1731/30. Can you state reason for suspecting signal was from German warship? Please report all available particulars of signal i.e. call signs, preamble and whether letter or figure code.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 2311/30, to N.A. Washington).

Shipping Routes and Raiders.

To avoid raiders area to north eastward of Leeward Isles suggest shipping bound between north America and South Africa should be routed through any passage in Eastern Caribbean Sea between Sombrero and Trinidad and within 300 miles of Cape Change Brasil. Slight focal area thus formed south east of Caribbean Sea could be afforded some protection by cruiser patrol working from Trinidad.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 0912/30 to Admty.)

Australia.

NANKO MARU

127. My 20002/29 Part 1. Description NANKO MARU, Additions. (A.C.N.B., 0301Z/30, to Admty. etc.)

/ RANGITANE ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.)

RANGITANE
HOLMWOOD
KOMATA
VINNI

128. My 20002/29, distress messages of raider victims.
RANGITANE Van Diemen main transmitter failed transfer made to emergency transmitter. Latter jammed Van Diemen main transmitter replaced and message transmitted.
HOLMWOOD vessel was 460 miles east of New Zealand at time of attack. Master states W/T apparatus was inefficient and claims (inexcusably) that reception by any shore station was unlikely.
KOMATA Jammed from moment of attempting transmission. Wireless apparatus put out of action very early. W/T operator made every possible endeavour to transmit and was last to leave his ship.
VINNI W/T duty undertaken by Chief Officer who was occupied on bridge. Early suspicious regarding intentions of raider allayed through Nauru Shore Signal Station which had raider in view making no signal indicating hostile nature of vessel. No information yet available regarding other vessels.
(A.C.N.B. Melbourne, 0743Z/30, to N.Z.N.B.).

Convoy, ACHILLES

ACHILLES escorting EMPIRE STAR, PORT CHALMERS EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and MAUNGANUI left Sydney 2145Z/29 for Auckland. (A.C.N.B., 0900Z/30, to Admty. etc.)

Troop Transport. U.S.9.

Your 94892 30/12. Elbow, 6000. Personnel in U.S.9. for Middle East 12,000. (Army, Melbourne, 0910/31, to Troopers, London).

Raider Survivors.

My 1243Z/25. Emirau Island survivors due Townsville 2000Z/31. Intend to release to publicity press and to local broadcast (?up to) arival. Therefore intend "EMIRAU Release" 1000Z/31st December. Released in terms of paragraph D my 1243Z/25 with following alteration: "Enemy Raiding Forces" become "Enemy Commerce raiders" as requested Admiralty 1658/26.
"A number of ships" become "names of ships sunk" as advised in my 0635/27.
Intend also using (?name of) EMIRAU ISLAND. As many of next of kin as possible will be advised before publication. But as complete nominal lists are in ship bringing survivors, cannot advise everyone.
(A.C.N.B., 1215Z/30, to Admty. etc.)

/ U.S.S. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.)

U.S.S. — H.M. transport MAURETANIA left port Phillip Bay 2240/29 for rendezvous in western Bass Straits with U.S.S.
(A.C.N.B., 1230Z/30 to Admty. etc.)

U.S.S. — G.B. 04024 paragraph 82.
(1) U.S.S. (2) 0800Z Monday 30/12 from rendezvous 058° 45' S. 142° 20' E. Daylight Friday 3/1 1941 in position 061° 56' 48" South 115° 10' East (4) 20 knots (5)(Route). (6) H.M.A.S. CANBERRA (9) QUEEN MARY, AWATEA, AQUITANIA, DOMINION MONARCH, MAURETANIA.
(13) (a) Admiral Goldsmith AQUITANIA Colombo (b) Cdre. Irvin QUEEN MARY Trincomalee.
(A.C.N.B. 1235/30 to Admty.)

Marshall Islands, use as raider base. — Your 228 Dec.30 repeated Foreign Office not Navyboard Melbourne.
Use of base in Marshall Islands first reported by (? discharged) Chief Officer of British Ship RANGITANE.
Six responsible survivors interrogated at Port Moresby stated raiders moved in company after sinking RANGITANE, in position 37° S. 175° E. on Nov.26, 200 miles east then to Kermadec thence 025 S. 177° E. thence between New Hebrides and Loyalty Islands, thence near San Cristobal, thence Nauru, thence to anchorage in Sydney Island, arriving Dec. 12 departing Dec. 13, thence near Nauru, thence Emirau. In view of political importance attached to use of Marshall Islands, Navyboard Melbourne is requested to assess reliability.
Ref. your paragraph 2 have no information to remark further. Navyboard Melbourne has been requested to verify whether vessel named HANYO MARU or HANYO MARU.
(C. of I.S., Singapore 1540Z/30. to Ambassador, Tokyo).

MOST SECRET.

30.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

NORD ATLANTIC — (B.2) German tankers here reported to have been alongside each other last night transferring cases. NORD ATLANTIC considered likely to sail very soon. (Consul, Vigo, 1450/30, to Admty.).

ACHILLES. — Arrived from Vigo ACHILLES 0010/30. (Bilbao, 1612/30 to Admty.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LEITO — December 29th arrival Italian steamer LEITO. (Valencia, 1950/30).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

SIKIANG — Departure 30/12 SIKIANG for Reunion. (N.C.S.O. Saigon 0950Z/30.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian: 1 about 300 miles east of Azores
1 nearer Azores
1 about 47° 45' N., 09° W., at 1058/30 bound for Gironde.
4 in N.W. Approaches vaguely estimated to westward of 15° W., between 54° N., and 57° N.

German: 1 between Freetown and Cape de Verde Islands.
1 about 47° N., 7° 30' W., bound for Lorient
1 about 56° N., 12° W., within 40 miles radius.
1 within 40 miles radius from each of the following points.
(a) 57° 30' N., 21° 30' W.
(b) 58° N., 20° 30' W.,
(c) 59° 30' N., 20° W.
1 south of Iceland
1 between Faroes and Shetlands homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C., 1255/30)

Your 2323/29. Re my 1134/28 which was repeated to WELLINGTON it will be observed that HIGHLANDER and HARVESTER were ordered to search on a line from the R/V position to North Channel. Your 2313/29 para 2. this will be done in future. (C. in C., W.A. 1848/30 to Admty.)

Submarines Attacked

By TUNA 18/12

Attacked in position 045° 28' N., 002° 27' W at 0430/18 German S/M U.32 type with torpedoes and gunfire. One non-vital shell hit. U-Boat's course and speed 000° 6 apparently making R/V but turned and ran towards boom after action. Chased for 53 minutes but on arrival of 2 escort vessels I was forced to dive. (See also Operations) Intense A/S activity by air by trawlers and 3 German M/S M M 1 class 7 miles West of Whistle Buoy on 27/12. Activity coincides with expected time of arrival U-Boat. (TUNA, 0100/30 to Capt S. 2.)

Your 0804/3.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

Your 0804/3 (Originated by War Reg. 3/1/41 calling for Nr 287, not previously received in War Reg.) Following is repetition of NR 287 Addressed Admty 287, C. in C., H.F. C. in C., W.A. A.O.C. in C.C.
TUNA reports at 0430/18 in position 045° 28' N., 002° 27' W., attacked U-Boat possible German with torpedo and gun. U-Boat steering north apparently making R/V was hit not vitally by one shell and was chased for 53 minutes. Two escort vessels then arrived and forced TUNA to dive. At 2314/18 in position 045° 28' N., 001° 38' W., sank by gunfire armed tug steering 190° Intense A/S activity by air, Trawlers and three German Minesweepers M one Class on 27/12. Seaplane Patrol encountered as far as 7 miles southwest of Whistle Buoy. (V.A.S. 1019/30 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/31. (D.C. 1207/31.)(D.C. 2355/31.)

Oban.
A/A Defences. Adty. 1317/29. Understand result of R/C available tomorrow. Request deterrent defence be arranged as soon as possible to release A/A Cruiser now defending Anchorage.(Air Ministry 1600/31 to Fighter Command.)

Movements.

AUSTRALIA. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0010/31). To be sailed forthwith for Liverpool to dock on 2/1. Will be required sail from Clyde on 7/1. (D.O.D.H. 2147/31 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

REPULSE.
SOMALI,
MATABELE. Arrived Scapa 0600. (A.C.O.S. 0607/31.)

FITZROY. Arrived 0855. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0859/31.)

ACTIVE,
GEORGETOWN. Arrived 30/12. Fuelled and sailed 31/12. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0927/31.)

WHITSHED. Sailed Sheerness 1015. (C. in C. Nore 1022/31.)

CURACOA. Sailed Scapa 0918 to escort W.N.61. (A.C.O.S. 1035/31.)Arrived Scapa 2337 (A.C.O.S. 2340/31.)

LA CAPRICIEUSE. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1046/31.)

VIMY. Arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1053/31.)

EDINBURGH. Arrived Scapa 1051 (A.C.O.S.1130/31.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (F.O.C.O.S. 1536/31.)

MEYNELL. Sailed 1445 for Scapa (C. in C. Rosyth 1600/31.)

/BEVERLEY.....

War Diary. 31.10.40. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Cont'd.

REVENGE. Sailed for Liverpool. (H.C.I.C. Londonderry 1836/31.)

Operations.

Iceland-Faroes Passage. Anti-Raider Patrol. Arrived Scapa C. in C.H.F. in NELSON with BEDOUIN, TARTAR, BEAGLE, SIKH. (A.C.C.S. 1230/31.) NELSON's position was probably reported by Enemy A/C at 1236 (D.D.I.C. 1303/31 to C. in C. H.F.)

Operation D.Z. Operation D.Z. para. 4 and D.C.1's 1143/30. Destroyers taking part are BEDOUIN, MATABELE, TARTAR, MASHONA. (C. in C. H.F. 1737/31 to C.S.S.)

ARETHUSA, AURORA, BEDOUIN, MATABELE, TARTAR, MASHONA, and two I-class Destroyers will be operating off the Norwegian Coast near Rostad on Night 1/2. (V.A.S. 2206/31.)

Submarines.

STURGEON. Sails Blyth 1100 routed by War Channel and Gap A, unescorted on surface. (C. in C. Rosyth 1036/31.) Will be at about 57° N. 1° E. at 0800/1, proceeding submerged by day towards 59° 11' N. 2° 30' E. (V.A.S. 1041/31) Sailed for Patrol(S.6. 1101/31.) To patrol between latitudes of Stadlandet and Fro Havet within 30 miles of Coast. (S.6.1128/31.) At your discretion proceed into Fro Havet during your Patrol and attack Shipping believed to pass close westward of Vaagsoen latitude 64° North. (V.A.A.1655/31 to STURGEON.) Is not to proceed North of 58° 20' N. until 0800/2. V.A.S. 2206/31.)

Greenock Area. Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1515/31.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/1. (V.A.S. 1631/31.)

MENTOR. Arrived (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1714/31.)

L. 23. Will be exercising in Scapa Flow to-morrow. (A.C.C.S. 1719/31.)

/CACHALOT....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines Contd.

CACHALOT. Arrived Clyde escorted by SURPRISE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2204/31.)

SEALION. Is not to proceed South of 69° 30' N. until 0600/2. (V.A.3. 2206/31.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. My 1708/30. Both Patrols cancelled owing to weather (C. in C. Rosyth 0720/31.)

My 1758/18. Patrol FAIR will be flown daily at dawn, weather permitting. (C. in C. Rosyth 1018/31) Patrol UNIT cancelled today owing to weather. No additional Patrols being flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1138/31.)

Bordeaux. AP/716/31/12. Repeat tonight operations ordered for Night 30/31. (H.Q.C.C. 1300/31 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Flushing. AP/717/31/12. Repeat tonight operations ordered for Night 30/31. (H.Q.C.C.1302/31 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Enemy Air Activity.

BREDA. (Dutch, 6941 Tons.) (Damaged in Air Attack on Oban 28/12.) Sunk in 56° 29' 12" N. 5° 35' W.(N.O.I.C. Oban 1040/31.)

Convoy HALIFAX. Being shadowed by one A/C in 51° 29'N.0° 55'E. (BERKELEY 1419/31.) Fighters have been sent (More 1530/31.)

Convoy ATHENA. One A/C in 51° 37' N. 1° 12' E. 3 Bombs. No hits. (WOLSEY 1429 and 1431/31.)

Lowestoft. 2 H.E. Bombs dropped on South Pier at 1621. No Naval casualties or damage. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1650/31.)

Mining.

Haydecote Passage. Your 1136/28. One Unit of M.T.B's now ready. Particulars of proposed laying. Operation will take place as soon as weather permits. (C. in C. Nore 1830/31.

/Operation D.Z.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.
See Operations.

Operation D.I.

S.N.O. and
N.N.O.

RAML. 1046/23. Additional Destroyers can be made available. HOOD will cover operations and EDINBURGH will provide Ocean Escort. (C. in C. H.F. 1606/31.)

Thames.

My 1940/29. The position of the mine has now been swept over about a dozen times with Skid Sweep with negative results. It is considered always possible for an unignited parachute flare to be mistaken for a parachute mine. Sweeping will be continued till 1700 after which I propose opening the River unless contrary orders are received. (F.O.I.C. London 1830/31 to C. in C. Nore.

Falmouth.

One Red Mine detonated at 1145/31 in 50° 7' 23" N. 5° 1' 40" W. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1646/31.)

Moray Firth.

There are indications that enemy S/ms have been entering Moray Firth. Interference with convoys in this area would be a serious matter since evasive routeing is not possible. It is for consideration that mine fields covering Moray Firth should be strengthened. (C. in C. Rosyth 1830/31. to Adty.)

BUENOS AIRES.

(Swedish 3701 tons) Reported by A/S Yacht LADY BLANCHE at 1740 today, mined in 53° 37' N. 3° 44' W. Crew abandoned ship and are being taken to Fleetwood by Trawler BISHOP ROCK. Ship anchored. Bulkheads reported holding. Rescue Tug AMSTERDAM going to assistence daylight tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2300/31 to Adty.)

Arrived AMSTERDAM towing BUENOS AIRES (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1810/31.)

Liverpool.

For 24 hours ending 1800/31. One mine self-detonated, one by LL sweep, and one by BUENOS AIRES. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2327/31.)

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coast.

D/F bearings suggest Enemy Surface Craft off Norwegian Coast. Signals intercepted at 0354, 0030, and 0046. W.T.I. indicates movements of Naval Units between Bergen and Namsos areas. (D.D.I.C. 0233/31.)

W.T.I. W/T traffic on the Norwegian Coast is Greater in volume than usual. It suggests movements of Naval units off the Coast between Bergen and Namsos areas in an unknown direction. (D.D.I.C. 1233/31 to C. in C.H.F.)

Danish Coast.

At 1117/31 Enemy Unit in 57° 30' N. 7° 20' E. D/F reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1161/31.)

Dutch Coast.

Convoy of 9 camouflaged M/V's moving slowly Northwards reported about 10 Miles S.W. of Ijmuiden at 1515/31. (C.I.C. 216.)

Luleå reported closed.

(a) Reported last shipment for season from Luleå sailed about 20th, the port being closed by ice some five days later. A.E.

(b) Following voyages illustrate flexibility of German arrangements for discharging iron ore. (N.A. Stockholm 1957/31. to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

GOLDEN WEST. (Steam Drifter) Damaged stem at 1600/30 while going alongside s.s. ANTIOPE in Methil Roads. Not seaworthy.(N.O.I.C. Methil 1941/31.)

Unknown Ship. Proceed forthwith to assist Unknown Ship on fire in 56° 58' N. 7° 57' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1435/31 to SCHELDE.).

CHESAPEAKE. (British Tanker, 8955 Tons.) Engine disabled in 54°31' N. 17° 28' W. Require Tug and Escort (CHESAPEAKE. Recd. 2145/31.) Detach one ship to assist. DILIGENT being sent. (C. in C. W.A. 2252/31 to MALLOW.) Proceed forthwith to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2258/31 to TENACITY.) Proceed to 54° 33' N. 18° 58' W. where ship was reported at 1050 today drifting West. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2121/1 to TENACITY) Sunderland A/C should reach area about 1500 to search (C. in C. W.A. 0844/2 and 1118/2 to ARABIS.) Detach CANDYTUFT to stand by (WESTCOTT 1005/2 to BLUEBELL) WESTCOTT reports CHESAPEAKE in 54° 30' N. 18° 33' W. at 1005/2. (C. in C. W.A. 1254/2 to ARABIS,DILIGENT.) ARABIS now standing by (CHESAPEAKE 1530/2 to Portishead Radio.) Not yet located CHESAPEAKE (TENACITY 1920/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Latitude now 55° 31' N. Escort has departed (CHESAPEAKE 0930/3 to Adty.) Not to be left unescorted longer than absolutely necessary. (C. in C. W.A. 1212/3 to ARABIS.)

HOME SHIPPING.

31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

O.B.C. 267. Sailed 0545/31, escort HEARTSEASE, 12 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1136/31.)

S.L.S.31. See South Atlantic. (C. in C. S.A., 1201 N/31.)

C.W. 31. List. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1304/31.)

H.X. 95. On time at R.V. with 13 ships, remainder scattered in gale. All now reported. (D.T.D. 1702/31 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

H.G.42. Date and route. Escort LEITH (D.T.D. 1838/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

F.N.70. Arrived 1000/31. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1029/31)

F.N.71. E.T.A. 2Q C Buoy 0300. (WALLACE, 1130/31.) Number ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber 1150/31.)

F.N.70 and 71. Deletions. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1253/31.)

S.L.33.2. Arrived escorted by HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, WELLINGTON. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1345/31.)

S.C.16. SPIND and ASHEY arrived. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1402/31.)

F.N.72. List. (N.C.S.O, Thames 1414/31.)

S.L.S.32. Route from R.V. (D.T.D. to C. in C.W.A. 1612/31.

H.N.64. Code "Metric". 1200/3. Escorts SOUTHERN PRIDE, HORNPIPE. 8 ships (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1576/31.)

H.N.65. My 1341/30. Commodore, and alternative daylight R.V. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1527/31.)

MOST SECRET.

31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.

F.O.76. List. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1627/31.)

F.N.71A. Ships to join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1629/31, N.C.S.O. Humber, 1732/31.)

F.N.50. 2200/1. BLACKFLY and ELLESMERE, additional escort FOWEY. 22 ships 13 owners. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1654/31.)

O.B.M.268. List. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1650/31.)

S.C.17. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D., 1751/31.)

S.C.16.
HX97. Your 1835/30. Return to Clyde escorting any ships from S.C 16 or H X 97 met on route. (C. in C. W.A. 0194/31. to LADY MADELINE.)

S.C.16. Have searched 30 miles beyond estimated position of convoy and passed five ships widely separated on M.L.A. Am rejoining rear-most ship which was in position 056° 34' N. 009° 44' West at 0330. (ANTELOPE, 0440/31. to ACTIVE)

S. M.V's. Your 1104/30. Convoy Major, all three ships have sailed for R/V, MADRONO expected time of arrival dark hours 0900/1. ANTONIA and AGATHA expected time of arrival Brixham 0900/1. (N.C.S.O. Barry, 0947/31, to C. in C.W.A.

W.N. 61. Scapa departures CURACOA 0918 to escort WN 61. (A.C.O.S. 1036/31.)

Expected time of arrival W.N.61 Kinnaird Head 2130/31.(RUMBA, 1115/31.)

E.N.50. Act as additional A/A escort to E N 50 sailing at 2200/1. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail FOWEY to join

W.N.63. W.N.63 due Duncansby Head 1330/4. Code word for E N 50, Mission, and W N 63, Material. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1133/31

31. 12. 40.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Shipping
Contd.

S.L.31.

BULOLO is to act as ocean escort to S L 31 routed in accordance with Admiralty 1737/24, until 18th January when BULOLO is to leave convoy and return to Freetown route.
(C. in C. S.A., 1159/31. to BULOLO.)

K.H.
F.I.
C.W.21.

Movements to 1200/1/41, VESPER & VORTIGERN with F375 on passage to Sheerness Convoys:-

FN 71A.	due	Flamboro' Head 1900/31.
FN 72	due	No. 5 buoy 2000/31.
FN 73	sails	Southend 0830/1.
FS 74	due	Barrow Deep 1600/31.
FS 75	due	No. 5 buoy 0200/1.
FS 76		Flamboro' Head 1200/1.
CW 21	due	Sand Head Buoy 1900/31.

(C. in C. Nore, 1200/31.)

O.G.48.

To pass through U-boat patrol between 55 N and 57 N. 16 degs. 00' W as quickly as possible GG 46 steer 270 degs, along 56 degs. 30' N, until 17 degs. 30' W. is reached then to 52 degs. 30' N. 21 degs. 00' W, then by route previously ordered local escorts leave convoy daylight 2/1 return to base. 1210/31 to SCARBOROUGH for Commodore, FOLKESTONE, WESTCOTT, BLUEBELL, CANDYTUFT. (C. in C.W.A. 1210/31.)

C. W. 21.

Southend 31/12 departure with Convoy C.W.21, for Ramsgate H.M.D. STARLIGHT RAY, for Dover H.M.T. KINGSCOURT.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1214/31.)

S. L. 3.

H. G. 49.

Convoy S L S due in position 055° 00' north 010° 00' west at 0900 11/1 routed through (J) 011° 40' north 020° 20' west (K) 025° 00' north 020° 30' west (x) 038° 00' north 018° 30' west(l) 050° 00' north 022° 30' west (y) 053° 10' north 016° 50' west speed seven knots. Convoy H.G.49 routed as in F.O.C.N.A's 1154/29, joins S L S 60 in position K at 0800 G.M.T. 3/1. (F.O.C.N.P., 1240/31 to Western Petrol.)

MOST URGENT.

31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

S. I. 39.

Shipping Cont'd.
My 1326/30. Proceed through 56° 40' N. 15° 00' W instead of 56° 00' N. 15° 00' W and thence on route ordered (C. in C. W.A. 1300/31. to CATHAY.)

S M.V.'s. Your 1944/29. Portsmouth Group arrived. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1404/31 to N. C. S. O. Dartmouth.)

S M.V.'s. Your 1307/30, arrived 1437/31. (N.O.I.C. Poole, 1500/31, to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth.)

H.K.27. Unless in company with any of H K 97 proceed to vicinity of 55° 30' 11° 00' and sweep to North Channel escorting any of S.C.16 encountered.
S.C.16.

(C. in C. W.A. 1610/31. to WHITEHALL, VANQUISHER.)

S.C.16. Unless escorting any ships proceed to vicinity 055° 30' North 010° West and sweep to North Channel escorting any ship of S C 16 met on route.
(C. in C. W.A. 1652/31 to VANQUISHER, WHITEHALL.)

S.C16. Your 1652 am escorting AGNIA MARINA and HEPATICA who has no armament and only the pattern depth charge.
My position course and speed are at 1800 056° 58' N. 014° 55' W 108° S.
(VANQUISHER, 1801/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.16.R. Request you will sail HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to meet S.C.16 R. estimated to reach 054° 24' N. 008° 14' W. at 1000 tomorrow. Convoy has been scattered by bad weather. Bristol Channel ships may not be present.
(C. in C. W.A. 1646/31 to N.C.O.I.C. Holyhead.)

F. H. 72.
F. H. 70.
F. H. 73.

Additional escort for F H 72 and F H 70 SHELDRAKE. Additional escort for F.H 73 HEARTSEASE breaking off at daylight to return to Harwich before dark on Thursday 2nd.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1625/31 to C. in C. Nore.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMAND.

Shipping Contd.

C.B.266.

462. If in company or vicinity of portion of convoy O.B.266 escort them on course 270 degrees until reaching 17 degs. W. in order to clear U/B's on patrol.(C. in C. W.A. 1852/31 to SKATE, SCIMITAR.)

C.W.21.

C. W. 21 passed Dover at 2030 without being shelled.(V.A. Dover 2304/31.)

Troop Convoys.
W. S. B. B.

HIGHLAND, PRINCESS, WINCHESTER CASTLE, and MONARCH OF BERMUDA at Avonmouth and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND at Newport are to join Convoy W.S.5 (B), which sails from Liverpool 7/1. Convoy conference arrangements named above, The Master of the DUCHESS OF RICHMOND being instructed to proceed to Avonmouth for the purpose. The four ships named are to proceed in company from the Bristol Channel to a R/V with the Liverpool Section.(D.T.D. 1825/31, to to F.O.I.C. Milford, Cardiff, Liverpool.)

Troop Convoys.
W.S.5.B.

1. W S 5 B will leave Liverpool Bar 1700/7/1/41 speed of advance calculated at 13½ knots.

2. Route:-

A.	6 miles	270°	from	Overnay.
B. One	57° 00'	North	10° 00'	West.
B. Two	58° 30'	North	13° 30'	West.
C.	56° 30'	North	17° 00'	West.
D.	52° 00'	North	25° 00'	West.
E.	39° 30'	North	33° 30'	West.
F.	14° 30'	North	26° 45'	West.
G.	08° 00'	North	16° 00'	West.

3. Choice of route North or South of Rockall will be thence to Freetown.

4. R/V X is established in position 49° 10' North 27° 45' West, promulgated later.

5. Position Y is established in 36° 00' North 13° 00' West.
(D.O.D. (H) 2340/31 to C. in C. W.A. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

31. 12. 40.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping Contd.
My 2350/31 and my 2340/31.

W.S.8.B.

1. WINDSOR CASTLE will sail from Liverpool.
2. MONARCH OF BERMUDA will sail in W.S.8B from Avonmouth, with 1000 personnel for Gibraltar. She will leave convoy (date) and proceed to Gibraltar escorted by FEARLESS and FORESIGHT at 18 knots passing through position Y.
3. RAMILLIES will not now be required for ocean escort. Her place will be taken by AUSTRALIA and EMERALD.
4. AUSTRALIA will be required to sail with Clyde portion.
5. EMERALD will be sailed from Plymouth routed south of Ireland so as to join Convoy in position X.
6. A/A Cruiser escort should sail from the Clyde. After EMERALD has joined they should return to U.K. as directed by C. in C. H. F.(D.O.D.(H) 2341/31 to C. in C. W.A, etc.)(See also D.O.D.(F) 2346/31 under Mediterranean)

GEORGIC
WARWICK CASTLE
RAMILLIES.

GEORGIC and WARWICK CASTLE speed 18 knots will be ready to sail from Clyde on 9th January, carrying Government and Military Personnel to Halifax. Ocean escort will be provided by RAMILLIES, C. in C. W. Approaches is requested to sail RAMILLIES from Plymouth on 6/1 to Clyde arranging destroyer escort from 8th D.F. C. in C. W is requested to sail RAMILLIES and convoy providing A/S escort. Admiralty will provide route. 2202/31 to C. in C.W.A. etc.)(D.O.D.(H).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.12.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S. 5 A. and Raider

Movements etc., after Action with Berwick on 25/12/40.

FURIOUS — On completion of Operation "Monsoon" FURIOUS is to be escorted to U.K. by NEPTUNE. (D.O.D. (F) 0215/31 to C. in C., S.A.)

KENYA
ARGUS
BERWICK — Request you will sail KENYA, ARGUS and BERWICK (if ready) in company to U.K. as soon as convenient after arrival of KENYA. JAGUAR may be retained until completion of "Excess". (D.O.D. (F) 0216/31 to F.O.C. N.A.)

Dispositions
Force T
Force K

1. On the assumption that the warship raider reported in the South Atlantic has gone north and was the one which attacked W.S.5 A convoy on 25th/12, it is considered that the dispositions referred to in A.T. 1917/24/11 should now be completed.

2. It is requested therefore that
(a) CORNWALL's refit may be proceeded with.
(b) ENTERPRISE may be sailed to form Force "T" as soon as practicable.

3. Consequent on the damage to BERWICK and the necessity for DORSETSHIRE to take her place in Force "K" it is regretted that DEVONSHIRE must be employed to escort W.S.5A on the latter part of the voyage to Durban.

4. The following arrangements for W.S.5 A are to be substituted for those given in A.T. 2219/26/11.
(a) Freetown to Durban HAWKINS covered by Force "K" until joined by DEVONSHIRE.
(b) Durban to Aden. SHROPSHIRE and HAWKINS.

5. It is intended as soon as
(a) DEVONSHIRE joins HAWKINS that Force "K" in co-operation with the South American Division should carry out a Raider sweep in the South Atlantic about which a further signal will be made.
(b) DEVONSHIRE is relieved by SHROPSHIRE that she should proceed to the United Kingdom

/6.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.12.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Convoy W.S.5 A and Raider

Movements etc., after Action with Berwick on 25/12/40.

Dispositions Force T Force K- Contd.

6. A further signal will be made about subsequent W.S. series convoys and the proposed escort arrangements. It is hoped that SHROPSHIRE will refit as soon as CORNWALL has finished. (D.O.D. (F) 0229/31 (Amended 1217/31) to C. in C's S.A. and E.I., S.O. Force K.)

BERWICK

Expected time of arrival 1745 A today. (BERWICK, 0930A/31 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Gibraltar arrival 31/12 1745, BERWICK. (S.O.I. Gib., 1754/31 to Admty.)

Enemy 5.9" Shells

Shells fired at EMPIRE TROOPER and CLEMATIS appear to have been 5.9 inch. Request you will obtain all available evidence from ships present at Gibraltar and report your views as to type of enemy warship encountered by the convoy. (V.C.N.S. 1051/31 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1051/31. An unexploded shell which hit BERWICK and which is distorted as a result of contact with armour is at least (? seven)point seven inches in diameter. It is considered that this was undoubtedly and eight inch ?.* Further signal will be made when enquiries are completed. (F.O.C.N.A. 2119/31 to Admty.)* Projectile.

Gibraltar Congestion

My 2324/30. Almost every available berth inside harbour is now occupied. Ships include 3 capital ships, 2 of which are crippled, 2 aircraft carriers and numerous other warships. Also five large M.T. ships understood to contain exceedingly important and valuable cargoes including large number of mines. EMPIRE TROOPER (Probably corrupt. Could be GERANIUM, AURANIA or KENYA) French Light Cruiser MOGADOR and DERBYSHIRE expected shortly. Harbour is thus at moment particularly vulnerable to air attack. (F.O.C.N.A., 1100/31 to Admty.)

/VELOX.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Vichy Ships.

Gibraltar 0015/31 French Armed Trawler ASPIRANT BRUN passed East to West escorting KILISSI MEDJERDA P.I.M.3 GUADELOUPE.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1105/31 to Admty.)

Dakar Reinforcements.

My 0012/16 and my 0030/17. Eli reports (? ship) camouflaged left Casablanca last week for Dakar with 1800 Air Force ratings, 100 tons munitions including 6 inch and 16 inch naval shells.
(2) Naval informants believe that recent heavy shipments and repatriation of Senegalese troops are for the defence of Dakar.
(3) Military informant in Casablanca states that a force consisting of five light columns totalling 12000 men is being organized by General Falvi (see my 0045/18) to protect French Nigeria or attack Lake Chad territory. General F. is at present at Dahomey.
(Acting Consul-Gen., Tangier, 1200/31, to F.O.).

Vichy Warships Casablanca.

State of ships at Casablanca 28/12 JEAN BART, GLOIRE, PRIMAGUET, EPERVIER, MILAN, BRESTOIS. Ten or eleven submarines, other small craft as before. French warships at Casablanca have now been given orders to keep clear of British men-of-war and to avoid any action that might be considered provocative. Grade A one.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1519/31 to Admty.)

ALSACE.

Your 1832/24 December not known whether French cableship ALSACE is still in Dakar. Enquiries are being made through Governor Gambia.
(C.in C. S.A. 1529N/31 to Admty.)

Gibraltar 31/12 1600. French armed trawler LA TOULONAISE passed from westward to eastward escorting French ships CHANTILLY, SUROIT, SALLY-MAERSK, OCTANE.
(S.O.I., Gib., 1622/31, to Admty.)

Dakar Intelligence.

Following received from Navy Department from Dakar. Arrivals. French ships ANDRE MOYRAND from Casablanca 21/12, CHAMPOLLION with N.C.O. native troops 28/12. BENTEY from south 30/12. Departures. French ships AISNE for unknown destination, KAKOULIMA for south and PORT DE BOUVILLE for Morocco 28/12.
(N.A. Washington, 1804/31 to Admty.)

/INDOCHINOIS,
COLONIAL,
CUBA.

.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (Contd.)

INDOCHINOIS,
COLONIAL,
CUBA.

Your 1017/30. It has been decided that crew of INDO-CHINOIS are to be repatriated when convenient occasion arises, and if there is space in COLONIAL after CUBA personnel have been accommodated, as many as can be taken should be released and put on COLONIAL. CUBA personnel should, however, be given priority and if necessary, a further ship will be provided for INDO-CHINOIS personnel who remain. (Ad. of M. 1926/31 to C.in C. S.A.).

North Atlantic.

Azores
Patrol,
PANDORA,
OLYMPUS,
OTUS,
OSIRIS

(A) PANDORA's Batter unfit for War Patrol but suitable for passage.
Propose PANDORA after arrival Gibraltar proceeds to U.K. for new battery.
PANDORA then to proceed to Azores.
(C) Azores patrol can be maintained by OLYMPUS and OTUS until 5th Feb. and continued by them from 21st Feb.
(D) Propose that a submarine from Second Flotilla fills gap between 5th Feb. and date PANDORA can be made available again
(E) OSIRIS has been considered as an alternative but in this event would not arrive U.K. until 27th Feb. since she will not arrive Gibraltar in time to proceed on patrol instead of OTUS.
(S. 8, 1720/31, to V.A.S.).

Daily summary operations.

Two routine A/S Patrols 1 surface recco west in search floating dock which was found off Casablanca.
(200 Group, 1721/31 to Air Min.)

Whalers.

H.M. Whalers SKUDD six and POLAR five arrived Ponta Delgada 1100 G.M.T. 31/12. Route to Las Palmas required.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada T.H.I. 1240/31).

IMPERIALIST.

Gibraltar departure 1300/31 IMPERIALIST for T.S. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 2346/31).

South Atlantic.

Freetown Arrivals.

Arrival 0800/31 - VINDICTIVE, ISIS, ENCOUNTER. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 0831/31 to Admty.)

ROTHLEY

British ship ROTHLEY due Capetown 27/12, from Fort Lincoln not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0941/31).

KING ARTHUR

Overdue shipping KING ARTHUR due Capetown 27/12 from Mauritius not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0845/31).

STIKLESTAD

Overdue shipping STIKLESTAD (Norwegian tanker) due Capetown 27/12 from U.K. not arrived. (Capetown, 1125/31).

/ VIRGINIA S. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

VIRGINIA S. — Overdue shipping. VIRGINIA S (Greek, 3605 tons) Milford Haven Departure 17/11 due Buenos Aires 29/12 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown 1728/31).

"A" Report ALSIC — Admty. (? Portishead Radio T.H.I. 2056/20) Description appears to fit a whale factory ship accompanied by four whale catchers but have been unable to obtain any information from local agents that such vessels are expected in these waters. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 10208/31 to C.in C. S.A.).

My 1020/31 it has now been ascertained from agents of Whale Factory ship TAMJE VIKEN that ship is expected at Capetown sometime soon from either New York or Halifax but confirmation of her departure has not been received. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1208/31 to C.in C. S.A.)

S.L.S.61 ISIS ENCOUNTER ASPHODEL BRIDGEWATER — Convoy S.L.S.61 approximately 25 ships sails Freetown 1200 from West first routed through position:- (b) 012° 00' N. 020° 20' W.
(c) 025° 00' N. 021° 50' W. then through 038° 00' N. 020° 00' W. speed of advance 6½ knots.
U-Boat probably Italian was in position 012° 30' N. 021° 30' W. 27/12.
ISIS and ENCOUNTER sail from Freetown 1800/31/12 to rendezvous with Force K and convoy in position 017° 50' N. 019 30' W. at 0800/2/1/41.
Hoped ASPHODEL and BRIDGEWATER will meet convoy daylight 4/1/41 as additional escort. (C.in C. S.A. 1201N/31 to S.O. Force K).

ANDRES. — Norwegian S.S. ANDRES badly ashore off Burmanciere Island Tutoya exposed position jettisoning of cargo reported necessary. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 10332/31 S.A.D. A. and W.I. Squadron).

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. Taranto, Crotonne, Naples, Palermo bombed — 6 Wellingtons 148 Squadron despatched to attack battleship in dock at Taranto and adjacent naval units. 3 Wellingtons despatched to attack battleships and docks Naples. (Each aircraft carried 2 bombs of 500 lbs and 7 of 250 S.A.P.)
Taranto Eschelon.

/ 5 aircraft .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Report Taranto, Crotonne, Naples, Palermo bombed

5 aircraft released all bombs in stick over target. 11 bursts seen round target. 1 Wellington unable to release bombs over Taranto but eventually succeeded in releasing whole load over alternative target, chemical factory at Crotonne. No results seen. Naples Eschelen. 1 Wellington dropped bomb load over Torrse Anninziata, no results seen. Second Wellington failed to locate target so attacked alternative target, Palermo Port facilities dropping whole bomb load. 1 burst seen on target but no further results observed due to clouds. Lights seen on south Sicilian coast. Flashing signals seen at sea in position 39.08" north 16.80" east. Cape Rizzuto beacon lit on outward journey but not on return. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 0740/31 to A.O.C. in C.)

Air Resources. A. 232. For Chiefs of Staff from Commanders-in-Chief. Proposals for increase in air squadrons. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 0758/31) See Mediterranean Volume.

Turkish Forts. Proposal to construct 5 ports on Black Sea Coasts and Southern Turkey. (M.A. Angora to Admty. 1155/31) See Mediterranean Volume.

Submarines. S.O. 1st Submarine Flotilla's 1247/30 (Return of O, P, & R submarines to U.K.) concur.

Air Report Tobruk. Operational Summary No. 204 to 1200 hours 31/12/40.
Egypt. Reconnaissance reported 5 small ships at Tobruk.
Greece. 30/12. 1 Sunderland patrolled the South East Ionian Sea for enemy surface shipping.
Sudan. Day 30/12. 1 Wellesley made an anti-submarine patrol in the Suakin Archipelago.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1209/31 to Air Min.)

Malta Air Report. Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 31/12. All times G.M.T. 0650-1115 Glenn Martin reconnaissance Taranto for shipping. If no opposition was to proceed to Brindisi. On arrival Taranto enemy fighter patrols seen over port and also out to sea. Lack of cloud cover and clear weather made it inadvisable to press further. Brindisi not reconnoitred for above reasons. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1725/31 to Air Min.)

/ Leros Air Raid .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Leros Air Raid. My 1749/16 full visible report now available; correct paragraph (a) Victualling store burnt, paragraph (b) victualling not ordnance office.
Add: Naval Barracks dormitory hit and destroyed. (Wolffson, Beyoglu 1812/31, to S.O.I., Med.).

Roumania. Your 1838/27. First intermediary arrested in Roumania for reasons not connected with negotiations.
New Intermediary only just chosen and may proceed to Roumania within a week.
(N.A. Angora, 1815/31, to Admty.)

OTUS. Leave patrol off Palermo p.m. on 2/1/41 and proceed direct to carry out offensive patrol in Area 038° 40' N., 008° 50' E. 000° - 25 - 32 during daylight hours of 4/1/41.
You will be ordered to leave that patrol and be routed to Gibraltar by Force H.
Anticipated positions and courses submarines at 1800/3 (minus one) will be:-
UNIQUE - 038° 08' N. 008° 54' E. - 090°
OSIRIS - 038° 25' N. 007° 40' E. - 265°
Both have been informed you will probably leave new patrol area p.m. on /4 four for Gibraltar. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1825/31 to OTUS).

Seamen. Your 1433/27. (500 young Ratings being sent to Mediterranean) Yes. These left in Convoy W.S.5A on 18th December.
(D.F.S. 1917/31 to C.in-C. Med.)

Convoy W.S.5B
EMERALD
EAGLE
AUSTRALIA

My 2219/26/11. Escort for W.S.5B will now be provided by AUSTRALIA and EMERALD.
2. On arrival at Aden, it is intended that EMERALD shall reinforce C.in C. East Indies. If and when C.in C. Mediterranean can spare EAGLE it is intended to form a Hunting Group of EAGLE and EMERALD.
3. AUSTRALIA is to escort convoy to Suez, after which it is intended that she should proceed through the Mediterranean to join the Home Fleet.
4. During her westward passage from Alexandria she would be available to assist in the return of suitable fast empty M.T. ships and transports.
5. (Expected date of arrival of W.S.5B at Suez), it seems likely that passage through the Narrows could be made a favourable moon period.
(D.O.D.(F) 2346/31 to C.in C's S.A., E.I., H.F., Med.)

/ BANDOLERO sunk. ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

BANDOLERO sunk. Regret A/S Trawler BANDOLERO was sunk in collision with H.M.A.S. WATERHEN at 2115/30 in Gulf of Sollum. No casualties. WATERHEN returning to Alexandria with bow collapsed as far as collision bulkhead. (C.in C. Med., 2351/31).

East Indies.

BARBETTE
BARNET
WARIALDA

My 0352/27 B.D.V. BARBETTE and B.D.V. BARNET sailed Colombo for Bombay 0037Z/30. Programme in my 1152/16 will be approximately four days late.
F.O.C.E.I.S. is requested to signal intended date of sailing of these vessels from Bombay and e.t.a. at Khorya Morya Bay and S.N.O. Persian Gulf to sail WARIALDA from Khor Kuwai accordingly. 0534/31.

BARBETTE
Boom D.V.

My 1152/16, para. four, amend first sentence to read "on arrival Mediterranean only skipper and guns crew remain in BARBETTE" two engineers have been lent for passage request they may be returned to Bombay or Colombo. 1324Z/31.

CAPE TOWN. [redacted] My 0303/27. On arrival at position 005°N. 092° E. proceed to position 005° 30' 094° giving cover to KARKUNDA thence through positions (a) 003° 092°, thence to Trincomalee arriving 0200Z/6/1/41. (C.in C. E.I. 0726Z/31 to CAPE TOWN).

COLOMBO, Kismayu Patrol. COLOMBO to leave Mombasa A.M. 2/1/41 and proceed to patrol off Kismayu. (C.in C. E.I., 0728/31 to COLOMBO).

CERES. E/S Group 142. CERES is to leave Mombasa 2/1/41 and proceed to Dar-Es-Salaam to arrive 0700Z/3/1/41.
CERES to leave Dar-Es-Salaam p.m.3/1 and proceed to Lindi to arrive at 0600Z/4/1.
CERES to supply minesweeping group 142 due Lindi A.M. 4/1., with sufficient fuel water and ? escort their passage to Mombasa.
After replenishing minesweeping group 142 CERES is to proceed to Mombasa.
Minesweeping group 142 is to be sailed for Mombasa as soon as practicable.
(C.in C. E.I. 0756Z/31 to CERES).

CANBERRA. Your 0822Z/28 (Escorts for U.S.8) concur. Request CANBERRA returns to Colombo on completion. Ship has had a prolonged period of hard steaming and it is desired she should remain in harbour if possible. Anticipated date U.S.9 will leave Fremantle. Arrangements for escort will be signalled later.
(Naval Board Melbourne, 0850Z/31 to C.in C. E.I.).

/ Abadan defence ....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Abadan defence. Air Min. X.367 30/12 have taken action to warn A I O C authorities and R.A.F. Stations in vicinity. Have not passed information to Iraqi or Iranian Authorities - although Shatt-Al-Arab and Basrah port defences are administered by British Officers. Latter are responsible largely to Iraqi Government. Request confirmation if Iraqi Government is to be officially informed as otherwise null precautions at Basrah Port and in Shatt-Al-Arab cannot be put into effect. Similar difficulties exist at Abadan for A I O C vis-a-vis Iranian Government. Propose to keep our only two Gladiators at Qabbansyo.
(A.H.Q. Iraq.1305/31 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

Ref. Air Min. X.367 30/12.
No objection to your despatching Gladiators to Shaibah if aircraft available and crews can be spared. Information from sure source suggests interest in black-out conditions. Probable therefore that attack if contemplated intended to be by night when Gladiators would not be of much value without a searchlight organisation.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1841/31 to Iraq).

RANCHI. RANCHI sailed in accordance with C.in C. E.I. 0702Z/30. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1432Z/31 to Admty.)

Operation "Begun" The next naval bombardment of Kismayu with air co-operation will be known by the code name of operation "Begun".
(C.in C. E.I. 1316Z/31 to Admty.)

Air Report. Summary No. 292 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 31/12.
0430 1 Blenheim 203 Squadron returning from convoy futies based Kamaran reconnoitred Ansab area. No harbour activities seen.
0610 3 Blenheims 8 Squadron attacked stores and warehouses Assab. Bombs in target area and adjacent waterfront.
0820 to 0845 1 of these aircraft reconnoitred Assab area. No shipping changes since 27/12.
(A.H.Q. Adm. 1839/31).

S.E.4 R. Your 0700/30 (no trace in W.H.).
Following is composition of S.W. four B STRATHNAVER, VICEROY OF INDIA, DUCHESS OF ATHOLL all empty to U.K. STRATHAIRD OTRANTO each with 350 families for Durban and few service personnel for U.K. EMPRESS OF CANADA with 350 families for Durban will call Aden to land 500 R.A.F. personnel and embark any personnel for U.K.

/ ANDES ....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

S.W.4 B. (contd.)

ANDES, STRATHALLAN, ORCADES carrying total 6700 prisoners of war for Bombay. REINA DEL PACIFICO ex Port Sudan empty for U.K. D. of S.T. is requested to send bunkering instructions.
(S.S.T.O. Egypt, 1855/31, to C.in C. E.I.)

Kismayu, Contraband Traffic.

Your 1933/30 being passed to Admiralty and C.O.I.S. Singapore noted. With the ships at my disposal I am unable to do more than is being done. A.O.C. Nairobi is doing all he possibly can to assist me but I understand he is short of aircraft due to commitments elsewhere. The solution is capture of the port. N.O.I.C. Kilindini inform A.O.C. Nairobi of these signals.
(C.in C. E.I., 1930Z/31 to N.A. Alexandria (for N.L. E.I.)

EMERALD, EAGLE, Hunting Group.

On arrival at Aden with W.S.5B, to reinforce C.in C. East Indies. If C.in C. Mediterranean can spare EAGLE, it is intended to form a hunting group of EAGLE and EMERALD. (D.O.D.(F) 2346/31 - for other details in this signal, see Mediterranean).

China.

Moller Cargoes

My 0859/27 para. three (Subject Action against Chinese owned Cargo) CARMEN MOLLER'S Lighter and JESSIE MOLLER now discharging cargo.
(N.L.O. Shanghai, 08492/31, to C.in C. China).

ABERDARE, HARROW

ABERDARE and HARROW are very unsuitable for a hot climate and could shortly be released in view of number of local vessels now available as minesweepers. Request instructions for their disposal.
(C.in C. China, 0930/31 to Admty.)

Intelligence.

F.E.W.11. No major change.
(A) Japan. Anti British broadcasts revived.
(B) Indo China and Thailand.
French have refused offer of mediation by Japan.
(C) Raider situation. Pacific Raiders were MANYO MARU (Senior Officer, TOKYO MARU (Probably ex KULMERLAND) and MARVIK. 26/12 Raider again shelled destroyed jetty and [illegible] and moorings. Warning given, no lives lost. Evidence that tender replenished in Japanese Harbour.
(Capt. on Staff, Singapore, 1201Z/31 to A.C.B.N.).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

LACONIA, H.X.98.

LACONIA will leave Halifax A.M. tomorrow Wednesday and rendezvous with H.X.98 off Sydney. Subsequently returning to Halifax. (N.A. 3rd B.S. 1142/31 to Admty.)

DESPATCH.

Leave Nassau 2/1 and proceed to investigate Cay Sal Bank Florida Straits for suitable fuelling anchorage for cruiser operating in this area. Thence carry out following programme. (details).
Governor British Honduras and Commissioner Caymad Island will be informed.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1221/31 to Commodore, West Indies, in DESPATCH).

Free French Refugees.

Governor of Windward Islands's telegram 30/12 to S. of S. for Colonies. Am of opinion that early action is desirable by Colonial Office to remove these Refugees from St. Lucia and send them to Trinidad or Bermuda for transport in small parties by Tankers or Convoy to Freetown or U.K. where they could join Free French Forces which is their desire.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1304/31 to Admty.)

Enemy Seamen Prisoners, Jamaica.

Please furnish complete nominal roll of these enemy merchant seamen by first convenient mail. Most convenient course will be to have A.F.W. 3000 completed by each individual adapting the questions to the case of merchant seamen where necessary, for example ship and owner instead of regiment and battalion. It is particularly desired to know whether seamen have close relatives serving in enemy ships overseas and the questions relating to parents and relatives might be extended to cover this. Seamen cannot be obliged to answer this latter question but a suggestion that letters might be more conveniently routed if the answer were known might be an inducement.
Forward completed forms to War Office not to P.W.I.B. who are not concerned with merchant seamen.
(W.O. to O.C. Troops, Jamaica, 1529/31).

Australia.

NOTOU
RINGWOOD

Now known that French NOTOU, 2489 tons, was sunk by a raider on 16/10 approximately in 23.50 S., 104.10 E., and the Norwegian RINGWOOD, 7203 tons, was sunk on 15/10 in approx. position 02.13 S., 166.40 E. No casualties in either ship, and crews are amongst those landed on Emirau Island.
(D.S. 434 amended D.S. 486).

/ Raider survivors ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Raider Survivors. My 12152/30 (Emirau Island survivors) Following publicity censorship restrictions Australia. No photographs of raiding vessels. No reference to existence such photographs. No mention number detailed description or mention of sea procedure or attack or details of armament or route or possible Island Bases of raider. No name of Australian Port where survivors landed or of rescue ship. Am now permitting short wave broadcasts and communication within Phonogram censorship bounds.
(A.C.N.B. 0627/31 to Admty.)

Marshall Islands, MANYO MARU. Your 15402/30. Political importance attached to the use of Marshall Islands appreciated.
7 survivors consisting of 3 masters, 2 chief officers, 1 chief engineer, 1 boatswain individually and then collectively examined on the subject. They differed in the opinion only as to actual Atoll Wotje or Maldelap. Their estimates of latitude and longitude of Atoll all agreed within few miles. Classification considered to be A.3 and this because although given run of decks they had no navigational instruments. It is confirmed that name MANYO MARU was painted in English with Japanese characters above on both bows and at stern. Port of registry Tokyo was painted under ship's name on stern. Further, Germans referred to ship as MANYO MARU.
(A.C.N.B., 06512/31 to C.O.I.S., Singapore)

Raider Aircraft My 20002/29. Three raider aircraft seen closely at Emirau 21/12. Two types of reconnaissance seaplane. Type one fast single engine high wing monoplane folding wings radial engine otherwise similar D O 22. Type two small slow biplane like H E 60. Raiders (including TOKYO MARU) carry at least one aircraft each. Germans claimed aircraft over Sydney, Australia, presumably between August and October.
(A.C.N.B. 0600/31 to Admty.)

Conditions in Raiders. My 2000 Z/29. Information contained therein and in signal obtained through interrogation of selection of survivors brought to Melbourne by air. W/T information no R D/F observed in any of the raiders. In MANYO MARU and TOKYO MARU constant D/F watch maintained apparatus consisting of a rotating loop fitted above bridge. General information, except as regards quality and quantity of food, cramped space, conditions and bad ventilation, treatment of prisoners appears to have been good.
(A.C.N.B., 1026 Z/31).

/ Dutch patrols. ....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. (Contd.)

Dutch patrols.

My 1639/1/11. Dutch authorities have now requested your permission for Dutch naval tanker and Dutch warship to visit Rabaul middle of January, 1941. Request permission may be given. (Hd. of M. 1040/31 to A.C.N.B.).

Troop Transport.

Your M.C.347 of 28/12. Operation stated in first sentence will be known as "Elbow" for direct communication. C.in C. Far East and G.O.C. Malaya informed. (War Office 1330/31 to Army, Melbourne)

Composition, Brigade Group, (Army, Melbourne, to Troopers, London, 0845/31).

AUSTRALIA, Convoy duty and to join Home Fleet.

I have kept in mind your request that AUSTRALIA should be joined up with one of the principal Fleets. Has not been possible to fit her with mess deck heating, and therefore best to delay her joining Home Fleet for the present. She has, however, taken part in active operations off West Africa. For above reasons I am now sending her to escort a convoy of Middle East reinforcements to Egypt via the Cape, leaving England early in January. On reaching Suez, she will be passed through the Mediterranean so as to arrive in U.K. about the middle of March, and will then join the Home Fleet. (1st S.L. 1723/31 to 1st Naval Member, Navy Board, Melbourne).

MONOWAI A.F.S.

Departure MONOWAI convoying A.P. three. (N.O.I.C. Auckland, 21457/31).

MOST SECRET.

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ACHILLES — ACHILLES left here 2130/30. (Bilbao, 1658/31, to Admty., 1703/31 to Fairnles).

ANNELIESE ESSENBERGER — Left Kobe 29/12. Reported (A.2) to have loaded a large quantity of fuel oil before departure. (D.S. 484) (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 00562/31).

NORD ATLANTIC / ANTARKTIS — B.2 report dated 30/12 states these tankers alongside one another on night of 29/12 transferring cases, and it is considered likely NORD ATLANTIC may sail soon. (D.S. 483).

FRANKFURT / PORTLAND — At Talcahuano, Chile. Reported to be loading mineral concentrates. Agent also requesting delivery of lentils. (D.S. 483). PORTLAND undocked 30/12. Both have embarked mineral concentrates. (D.S. 486).

BRITA / DAHLIA / BALTICIA / EDDA / INDUS — Swedish ships, seized during Norwegian campaign, have been confiscated by order of Hamburg Prize Court (D.S. 483).

DRAKE — In an air reconnaissance on 29/12, a tanker was identified at Cherbourg as the DRAKE, 9025 tons, which had left Vigo on 10/12 and arrived at Ferrol on 12/12 (D.S. 485).

JANTJE FRITZEN — B.2 report, has recently made 3 successive voyages from Ox Elosund to Hamburg, Bremen and Emden. (D.S. 485.).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LELLO. — Left Barcelona 28/12 for Valencia (D.S. 483).

STELLA / XXIV MAGGIO — At Pernambuco, reported to have sold cargoes of grain which are being transhipped in Brazilian ships to Rio de Janeiro. (D.S. 483).

CERVINO / PRINCIPESSA MARIA — Reported slightly damaged in Buenos Aires Harbour through British THISTLEGORM colliding with them. (D.S. 483).

MAURO CROCE — Left for Valencia 30/12. (Barcelona, 1644/31).

/ DUCHESSA D'AOSTA ....

5

MOST SECRET.

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ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS (Contd.)

DUCHESSA D'AOSTA

Following telegram from DUCHESSA D'AOST. to Lloyd Triesto intercepted by Bureau Military Intelligence (begins).
We confirm our latest telegram to-day's date. We are sending required papers regarding unloading and are reloading all Genoa wool not counting I H Copper. Work possible in next 30 days.
Estimated expenditure 145,000 pesetas plus extra expenses for crew and petrol consumption. To-day's stock of petrol 596. DUCHESSA D'AOSTA. (Ends).
This telegram was translated from Italian into French by Duala authorities and sense of message has therefore become less clear.
(N.O.S.O. Lagos, 1800/31, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

DONAX. (British, 8036 tons) reports 58° 40' N., 17° 30' W. chased by S/M. (Valentia Radio, 1510/31) Straggler from H.X.97, homeward bound from Curacao (D.S., 484).

RISANGER (Torpedoed 27/12) Norwegian, 5455 tons. BELINDA reports rescued entire crew from Norwegian S.S. RISANGER torpedoed 27/12, 12° 30' N., 21° 30' W. S/M believed being Italian very big and grey painted. Master. (Freetown W/T Recd. 2201/31) Position about 270 miles W.S.W. of Dakar. (D.S., 484).

BRITISH ZEAL. (British tanker 8532 tons). reports 15° 43'N., 20° 24' W. torpedoed (BRITISH ZEAL via Freetown W/T 2212Z/31).

S333 BRITISH ZEAL reports 15° 43'N., 20° 30' W. torpedoed 2212/31 (Colombo, via Singapore, 2346Z/31).
Admty. from (Colombo W/T). Following message incompletely received on 8450 kcs.
S333 DE (not received) R 24 West torpedoed 2211 (group omitted).
(Singapore T.O.R. 2331Z/31 to Admty.)
Position about 180 miles ~~W.S.W.~~ of Dakar.
Was outward bound from Liverpool for Freetown (D.S. 484).

Submarines Reported.

1050. Training A/C reports periscope about 2 miles off shore off mouth of River Spey course East. (Graded B.3) (C.in C. Rosyth, 1508/31)

1613. Attack S/M in position 058° 41' N., 017° 50' W. at 1613 reliable fix. (C.in C. W.A. 1636/31 to WINCHELSEA).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian.
1 or 2 to N. or N.E. of Azores
1 about 45° - 46° N. 5° - 6° W. bound for Gironde
4 between 54° 30' N. and 56° 30' N. 14° 30'W. and 16° W.
2 more may be in same area or moving southwards for Bordeaux.

German.
1 between Freetown and Cape de Verde Islands
1 arriving Lorient today
1 within 60 miles radius of each of the following 5 points.
(a) 56° N. 12° W.
(b) 57° N. 21° 30' W.
(c) 57° 40' N. 21° 30' W.
(d) 58° 30' N. 21° W.
(e) 59° 30' N. 21° W.
1 between Shetlands and Norway bound east or south east.
(D.D.I.C. 1245/31).

ENDING OF

REEL K-11-A

DOCUMENTS - PHOTOGRAPHED

Admiralty War Diaries 1/12/40 to 31/12/40 cont'd	from K-10-A.

O.N.I.

DATE: 17, April, 1946

MACH. NO. 1701

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: Powell